

Antigay crusader Pete Knight dies
Community reaction mixed on legacy left
by Prop. 22 author who rejected gay son.

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LLEGO looks to future
Longtime executive director
to step down in July.

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Toga party with Brad
Golden boy Pitt turns
manly hero in 'Troy.'

see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Governor has Pride

by Cynthia Laird

Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be welcoming people to San Francisco LGBT Pride. On Tuesday, May 11, his office submitted a letter to the Pride Committee that will be prominently featured in the San Francisco Pride guide, which is distributed throughout the city in advance of the June 26-27 Pride weekend.



Gov. Schwarzenegger

After the Bay Area Reporter began inquiring about the governor's letter Monday and Pride officials had yet to hear if a letter would be forthcoming, Kirsten Boyd, the treasurer of the LGBT Pride Celebration Committee and a staff member to Board of Equalization Chairwoman Carole Migden, received Schwarzenegger's welcome message Tuesday at about 2 p.m.

Boyd and gay Republicans had been working with the governor's staff and remained confident the governor's letter would come through before a May 14 deadline.

Jeff Bissiri, chairman of the California chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans, told the B.A.R. that members of his group had urged the governor's staff not to overlook various LGBT Pride events.

"They'll be doing one for all the events," Bissiri said, referring to the welcome letters. "We had a meeting with the governor's chief of staff and did raise this issue," Bissiri said. "We said a Pride welcome letter would be expected."

Schwarzenegger's letter begins, "I am pleased to extend warm greetings to all who have gathered for this year's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration and Parade." He goes on to state, "The Golden State is honored to host events that celebrate diversity and promote active civic involvement. I applaud your efforts to foster ties within your community and to pay tribute to the cultural tolerance of our Golden State."

"Over the past 35 years, California has made significant progress to combat discrimination and prejudice against the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. I salute your efforts to raise public awareness and to advocate civil rights for all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation."

"On behalf of all Californians, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event and every future success," the letter concludes.

Teddy Witherington, executive director

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Marrying NY mayor visits SF

New Palitz, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, visited San Francisco on Saturday. West was "sighted" and had a touch of glitter applied to his forehead by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at a community forum Saturday in San Francisco. Above: West, left, listens to marriage rights for speakers with fellow Green Party members Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez and Peter Campos. West made history when he followed San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's lead and married 25 same-sex couples in the small New York town earlier this year. He now faces criminal charges related to the weddings. On Sunday, West attended a Mother's Day brunch in Noe Valley. Said West, "I think it's been incredible meeting all these grassroots individuals in San Francisco. It gives me such inspiration. In New York, we are the only ones who have lawsuits against us and we are the only place in the country where they are prosecuting us." More than 500 people attended a fundraiser against performance Saturday night, where West was the guest of honor.

Massachusetts gears up for gay marriage

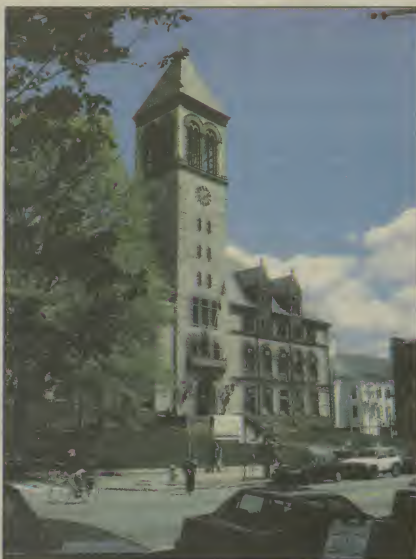
by Ed Walsh

As Massachusetts gears up to become the first state to grant same-sex marriage licenses next week, a legal battle is looming over the validity of the licenses that may be issued to gay couples from out of state.

Although Massachusetts does not have a residency requirement, the state's Republican governor, Mitt Romney, is insisting that city clerks enforce a 1913 law that states that nonresidents may not marry in Massachusetts if their marriage would be void in their home state.

Gay rights advocates promise to challenge the law in court and there is a move afoot in the Massachusetts Legislature to repeal the statute. Initially, Romney insisted that clerks demand proof of residency before issuing licenses, but he backed off that directive last week. Gay marriage advocates had complained that proof of residency was discriminatory because it had never been required before.

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, the organization that fought and won the same-sex marriage court battle, is warning that out-of-state residents who marry in



Cambridge City Hall in Massachusetts will issue marriage licenses on May 17 at 12:01 a.m.

Massachusetts face a double obstacle if their marriage is challenged.

"Out-of-state same-sex couples who honestly marry in Massachusetts may be placed in the unfortunate position of having to argue

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Exploring the serodivide Gay men opt for serostatus separation

by Matthew S. Bajko

In 2000, after his "blowjob boyfriend," Michael Cooley gave up trying to date negative guys.

"It was all we ended up doing. Once in a while I would fuck him. But twice in two years? Come on..." said Cooley, 30, who has been positive for 10 years. "I thought maybe it was better to date positive guys."

Cooley found it was just easier to serosort, only dating or having sex with men of the same HIV status.

"I tried for a little while to date anybody. But it was just fraught with troubles to date negative guys," said Cooley, the Positive Force program coordinator at the Stop AIDS Project. "There is just this level of denial that goes on around a negative guy interacting with a positive guy. They say, 'That's fine, we will be safe.' But as time goes on, you get a sense they are uncomfortable but don't want to hurt your feelings."

Joseph, who asked that his last name not be used, has serosorted for 10 years. Positive for 20-plus years, the 45-year-old said that when he learned his status, "I swore to myself no one else would become infected by me. I don't think that is a large sacrifice. I've tried to always be safe since then."

He has tried to date negative men in the past, but found such relationships too emotionally draining, especially when the issue of sex was discussed.

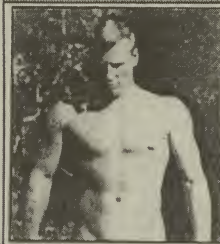
"As time has gone on in relationships with uninfected — which I prefer to say than negative — men, there has always been an imbalance," he said. "Negative guys say, 'We can have safe sex.' But to me it almost feels like pity sex in a sense. It is limited in what I

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AIDS agencies fight cuts

by Matthew S. Bajko

Emotional support, job training programs, and mental health and substance abuse counseling for LGBT clients all face the ax under the health department's proposed contingency plans to help the city deal with a \$325 million budget crisis.

The San Francisco Health Commission met Tuesday, May 11 to deal with the \$12.6 million in cuts requested by Mayor Gavin Newsom. Newsom, after already asking health officials to cut \$19.7 million from their budget, had proposed the department cut another \$37.1 million.

Newsom, however, reversed course and lowered his request from a 15 percent cut to an 8.2 percent cut, thereby avoiding "the most severe service cuts," stated Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz in his budget proposal. The commission voted unanimously to accept Katz's proposal.

"This is the best budget we have ever seen in terms of what is not on there. Every year they put the community-based contractors on the cut list. For once this mayor and health director didn't do that," said Health Commissioner Jim Illig. "The bulk of these cuts were coming from the department side."

The cuts include eliminating 296 positions, with 135 being administrative, noted Illig, Project Open Hand's government affairs director.

For those agencies serving LGBT clients that find themselves on the chopping block the cuts run deep. Probably the hardest hit AIDS agency this year is Shanti, which has seen its budget and staff decimated over the last 12 months.

The 30-year-old agency's budget fell from \$4.5 million to \$2.2 million and reduced its staff from 54 to 30 employees. More could receive pink slips if the Health Commission's decision to end its \$401,811 contract to provide emotional and practical support to people living with AIDS is not overturned by the Board of Supervisors. The agency serves 1,000 clients under the contract.

As of this Friday, the agency is ending its transportation services due to a drop in its Ryan White CARE Act funding and, along with Instituto de la Raza and the Black Coalition on AIDS, has had to end its case management services for hundreds of clients due to the federal cuts and a failed attempt by the AIDS Office to backfill the funds.



Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz and members of the Health Commission listen to speakers during Tuesday's meeting.

"Shanti is facing the most difficult funding situation it has seen in some years," said Executive Director Hywel Sims. "All types of donations — private, corporate, foundation, and government — have fallen. Shanti has downsized substantially, making every effort not to reduce client services."

In a letter sent to health commissioners, Sims challenged the reasoning given for cutting the program. Katz wrote that by ending the contract for services to "clients with less extensive needs" it would avoid cuts in medical, mental health, substance abuse, food or transportation services for people with HIV and AIDS.

Noting transportation is already being cut and the clients his agency serves are among the most vulnerable in San Francisco, Sims said, "More than one-third of the people in this program are homeless or not stably housed, more than a half have psychiatric illness, and more than one-third report active substance use."

The same client base will be adversely impacted by Katz's decision to close the Mission Mental Health Clinic, said Michael Barbee, an openly gay psychologist who estimates about 25 percent of the clinic's 700 clients are LGBT.

"We serve some LGBT clients we may not think of as part of our community, homeless LGBT people, seriously mentally ill clients, and monolingual, Spanish-speaking LGBT clients who wouldn't have access to other services," said Barbee. "The health department has been talking about the huge problem with meth in the gay male population. Many of those people are homeless and seriously mentally ill."

Under Katz's plan, the Mission clinic would move into the Tom Waddell primary care clinic, which will end its night programs, and be forced to lay off 20 people.

It is the first year the Mission clinic has been targeted and staff suspects it has more to do with their monthly rent of \$90,000 than with service needs.

"These kinds of decisions are made financially but without any assessment of clinical need in the community," said Barbee, who added no one at the clinic was aware the program faced cuts until Friday, when the health department posted the contingency plan on its Web site.

Other agencies facing cuts include Positive Resource Center, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the AIDS Health Project. As with Shanti, the agencies have had to fight to save their programs' funding for the last two years. Last year, Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Chris Daly came up with a plan to restore the programs' funds, and the agencies are hopeful the supervisors will once again save their programs from the budget ax.

Dana Van Gorder, SFAF's director of state and local affairs, said AHP — which contracts with SFAF — has already given layoff notices to its staff that provide emotional support to people with HIV and AIDS. The contract costs \$383,179.

SFAF has also seen a drop in community support this year. Its annual fundraiser last week raised \$273,000 compared to \$300,000 in 2003. Though foundation officials said donations are still being collected and hope they can break even with last year's total.

"AHP and the foundation are certainly resourceful, and yet, given reductions in our overall fundraising and what have you, it is difficult for us to assume the cost of the services," said Van Gorder. "Additionally, as the city budget has been more constrained, Mitch has prioritized primary care services. That has

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Coors runs 'image' ads

by Zak Szymanski

At the same time that activists have renewed their efforts to boycott Coors products for continued donations to right-wing causes – and just as “gay-friendly” Colorado Republican Peter Coors has jumped into a U.S. Senate race – the Coors Brewing Company is investing in a campaign of its own: a series of pro-gay ads to run in LGBT media outlets.

An Associated Press story this week detailed candidate Coors's visit to a gay bar decades ago, to talk with patrons. He also claims responsibility to agree in 1978 to end the lie-detector tests given to employees, adopt an antidiscrimination policy, and institute benefits for the partners of gay employees, according to AP. But Coors claims the recent ad campaign is not related to the race.

Coors Brewing Company began its image ads last year. The 2003 ads featured a triangle that detailed its history of LGBT activism within its company, an ad that the local magazine *Gloss* has run without generating public controversy, according to publisher Bevin Shamel.

The newest ads for 2004 are entitled “Straight Talk from Coors,” and they address what Coors is calling its “image problem” in the LGBT community. The *Bay Area Reporter*, perhaps to the chagrin of some activists, is running the full-page ad for seven weeks, collecting a net of \$816.79 per ad, according to general manager Michael Yamashita, for a total

of about \$5,700.

The B.A.R. as a general rule does not censor advertisements, although controversial ads usually warrant articles examining them.

Coors has a long history of workplace problems, including union busting and antigay discrimination, say activists, not to mention past support for the Ku Klux Klan by Coors family members.

Company profits also help to fund foundations that give grants to antigay and other right-wing politicians and efforts, such as the Heritage Foundation, which supported Colorado's notorious Amendment 2, and the Castle Rock Foundation.

“Massive Coors family funding of right-wing homophobia continues today, including Castle Rock grants to Heritage, Free Congress (run by antigay TV commentator Paul Weyrich), the Center for Individual Rights, the Western Journalism Center (run by homophobe Joseph Farah), the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, Promise Keepers (a fundamentalist Christian group), the Institute on Religion and Public Life and many other fiercely homophobic groups,” said a recent fact sheet released by the National Lawyers Guild.

The recent Coors company ad campaign boasts its LGBT advances in the workplace, its continued funding of groups like the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation and the Human Rights Campaign, and its recent 100 percent score from HRC. But while such specifics may be accurate, warn LGBT activists, the company continuously fails to ad-

dress how its owners give generously to right wing and antigay causes and indeed benefit from the sale of Coors products.

“Let's have some ‘straight talk’ of our own,” said Robert Haaland, a queer and progressive activist who is running for supervisor in District 5. “Every penny I spend on a Coors beer will go to funding right-wing causes. That is their fundamental image problem. And that's more than an image problem, that's a substance problem.”

Longtime LGBT and labor activist Howard Wallace said that gays who think Coors' problems are all in the distant past just need to look at some recent donations from related Coors foundations: to defeat gay marriage in Hawaii, for instance.

Coors can point to its progress for LGBT and other minority employees, as noted by Kris Ward of Merge Media, who wrote the press release that accompanied the advertisements. Ward points to domestic partner benefits, nondiscrimination ordinances, and employee associations as true measures of workplace acceptance. And she quotes employees like Elizabeth Jacobson, president of the lesbian and gay employee association, who said, “It surprised me how okay it is to be out at Coors. And once I was out, I realized the sky is the limit. It's a very comfortable place to work,” she said. “Plus the benefits are fantastic and the corporate culture is second to none.”

But “they wouldn't have those gains without the boycott,” said

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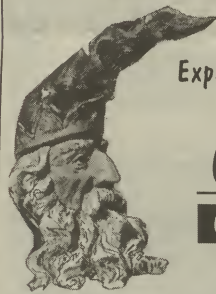
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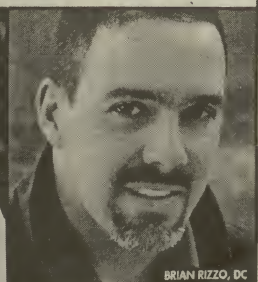
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News in brief


compiled by Cynthia Laird



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Dyke March benefit

The San Francisco Dyke March will host a benefit party Friday, May 14 from 7-10 p.m. at the Dolores Park Café, 501 Dolores Street at 18th. Emcees will be Tina D'Elia, Teretha Cooper, Katharine Chase, Kitty Rose, Julie Wolf, Terese Taylor, The Mama's Boyz, Judea Eden, Skye, Martine Locke, and Meliza Banales.

Sliding scale donation is \$10-\$20, although no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

This year's Dyke March takes place Saturday, June 26, at Dolores Park. The afternoon gets under way with a rally and stage show at 3 p.m.; the march leaves the park at 7.

For more information, visit www.dykemarch.org.

Lyon-Martin, Oakland dyke march benefit

Comedian Karen Williams will headline a benefit for Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services and Sistahs Steppin' in Pride (Oakland's dyke march event) Friday, May 14 from 7-11 p.m. at Preservation Park, 1233 Preservation Park Way, in downtown Oakland. Other performers scheduled to appear include jazz singer Janice Steele and pianist Pat Gill, the Lesbian/Gay Chorus of San Francisco, and Harlem Shake Burlesque. Tickets are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple and include a VIP reception, reserve seating, and a dance afterwards. Tickets for the show only are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. For tickets or more information, call (415) 901-7133 or visit www.lyon-martin.org.

Sistahs Steppin' in Pride, a dyke march and festival, is slated for August 28 at Lake Merritt. For more information, visit www.dykemarch.org.

Music in the park

The third annual "Music in Buena Vista Park" event will take place Friday, May 14 from 6-8 p.m. on the lawn at the summit of the park, located off Haight Street. Last year's band, Edna Love, is back by popular demand. Wine, other beverages, and light snacks will be for sale, or people can bring their own food for a picnic. The event is sponsored by Friends of Recreation and Parks, the Buena Vista Neighborhood Association, Mt. Olympus Neighbors Association, the Cole Valley Improvement Association, and Friends of Buena Vista Park. For more information, call BVNA at (415) 431-2359 or e-mail BVNA@ix.netcom.com.

New spiritual group

San Francisco AIDS activist Homer Hobi is starting a new spiritual group "The Gay Message" and the first meeting will be held Friday, May 14 at MCC-SF, room 108, 150 Eureka Street, from 7-9 p.m. According to Hobi, Gay Message has its roots in "Silo's Message." The idea is to connect with the best in yourself, with your internal strength, and with the best in others. Hobi has been involved in groups similar groups for 30 years. He said that people with HIV are encouraged to attend. For more information on Silo, visit www.silo.net. For more information on the new group, contact Hobi at (415) 285-0606 or e-mail hobi@sbcglobal.net.

Sha'ar Zahav game night

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav will hold its first "May Mahj Madness"

Mah Jongg game night Saturday, May 15 from 7:30 p.m. to midnight. The event celebrates queer, Jewish cultural identity. There is a \$25 charge for CSZ members, and \$36 for non-members. Proceeds go to the synagogue's educational programming.

Mah Jongg has been played in China for centuries. The game was imported to America in the early 1920s. By the 1930s, the game was played predominantly by urban, East Coast Jewish women. "Gay Jewish Mah Jongg" in San Francisco began about two years ago when three friends—Caryn Aviv, Marc Wernick, and Alan Gordon—decided to create a community that brings friends together who share a passion for exploring their Jewish past.

The CSZ-sponsored event is an opportunity for non-players as well as advanced players to learn about the latest Mah Jongg rules while making new friends. The evening's program includes special icebreakers, kosher snacks, and official game instruction.

Space is limited. To sign up, call Melanie Kushnir at (415) 861-6932 or e-mail mkushnir@shaarzahav.org.

Launch party for new street fair

Interested community members are invited to the Eagle Tavern, 398 12th Street at Harrison, Saturday, May 15 to be part of the festivities to launch the Harrison Street Party, which is scheduled to take place in August. Starting at 9 p.m., the launch party is being produced by Gregg Taylor and will give people a chance to learn more about the event and to get involved in hosting and planning activities.

Pete King, one of the organizers for the bear-focused event, said a week of activities would culminate with an August 15 street party along a portion of Harrison Street, in San Francisco's South of Market District.

For more information, visit www.harrison.org.

AIDS vigil Sunday

The 20th annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil will be held Sunday, May 16, starting at 8 p.m. at Castro and Market streets. The candlelight march will proceed to Civic Center, where there will be a short program of speeches, music, and performance.

The vigil began in San Francisco and New York in 1983 and was led and organized by people with AIDS to publicly empower themselves and to honor those who had died. Since then, the vigil has become the world's oldest and largest grassroots event, with vigils taking place in some 3,000 communities in 85 countries.

The event is free, although donations are appreciated. Organizers said people should bring their friends and bring candles.

BCA forum

In recognition of HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, the Black Coali-

tion on AIDS will present a community forum, "HIV Vaccines and African Americans" Tuesday, May 18 from 6-8 p.m. at the Visitation Valley Jobs, Education, and Training Center, located at 333 Scherwin Street in San Francisco. The community discussion will promote dialogue on the importance of black community involvement in HIV vaccine research.

"Blacks are disproportionately impacted by HIV, yet we are under-represented in research studies," said Andre Robertson, director of prevention. "If we want study findings to accurately reflect the black community, we must bring ourselves to the table."

Tuesday's forum will also address misconceptions about vaccine research that keep people away.

The event is free and open to the public and will feature community leaders and city health officials. For more information, call BCA at (415) 615-9945.

Job fair coming up

The LGBT Community Center's second job fair will take place Thursday, May 20 from noon-4 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco. This job fair's focus will be on healthcare, pharmaceutical, biotech, real estate, mortgage, and title companies.

Prior to the job fair, the center is holding a "Job Fair 101" this Saturday, May 15 from 3-5 p.m. It will cover the basics of how to best prepare for a job fair.

Both events are free. For job seeker information, call the front desk, (415) 865-5555. For employer participation, call David Bach at (415) 865-5534. Information is also available at www.sf-center.org.

'Bike to Work Day'

"Bike to Work Day" takes place Thursday, May 20 and participants and supporters can gather at a benefit for the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and the Late Night Coalition that evening at the DNA Lounge, 11th Street at Harrison. Tickets are \$10 for SFBC members or free if you join at the door. Trannyshack's own Heklin will host "Bike to Work Night," and bring the best of Trannyshack's stars to entertain the crowd between bands. Doors open at 7 p.m., the show starts at 8. For more information, call SFBC at (415) 431-BIKE or visit www.sfbike.org.

SF marriage rally

As Massachusetts starts issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples Monday, May 17, Marriage Equality California will host a rally in support of equal marriage rights in downtown San Francisco. Interested people should gather at Powell and Market streets at 5 p.m. The groups will then march to City Hall for a rally, featuring comedian Margaret Cho. For more information, call (415) 821-6545 or visit www.equalmarriagesolidarity.org.

Coors ad

◀ page 3

Wallace, who is about to become a vice president of the San Francisco Labor Council and was active in last November's press event in the Castro to publicize how Coors money has recently undermined affirmative action.

"Coors is responsible for bringing the extreme right wingers into the mainstream. Most conservatives thought these

guys were nut cases, and now these guys are in the White House," said Wallace. "Coors is bad news for this country, not just lesbians and gays."

Wallace, who would rather not see Coors ads in the gay press, said that at the very least the Coors campaign would propel those who know better into serious action.

"In the long run I think they will hurt themselves. This will prompt many people like myself to start making more noise about the truth about Coors." ▼

Antigay crusader Pete Knight dies

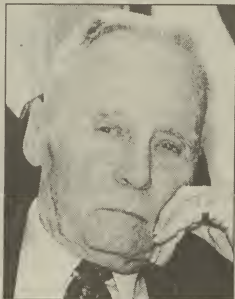
by Cynthia Laird

State Senator William J. "Pete" Knight (R-Palmdale), who helped enshrine marriage discrimination into California law, died Friday, May 7 of an acute form of leukemia. He was 74.

Mr. Knight had been ill since mid-April and died at City of Hope National Medical Center in Duarte, California.

Mr. Knight was the author and the leading force behind California's Proposition 22, the March 2000 ballot initiative that defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman. More than 60 percent of the state's voters approved the measure, which lives on today as the debate continues over equal marriage rights.

In the latest fight for equal marriage rights, Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) is attempting to get his bill passed that would amend a different section of the family code. Mr. Knight's Proposition 22 was added to the section of the family code dealing with marriages performed in other states being recognized in California. Leno's proposal, the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act (AB1967) affects the portion of the family code dealing with marriages in California and would define marriage as a union between "two persons." On Wednesday, May 12



State Senator Pete Knight

AB1967 was placed in the suspense file following an Appropriations Committee meeting.

Mr. Knight was estranged from his openly gay son, David, who came to San Francisco in March and married his longtime partner.

David Knight told the *Los Angeles Times* over the weekend that he just couldn't talk about his father.

Gay and lesbian leaders offered mixed views on Knight's legacy.

Mike Marshall, who managed the No on 22 campaign in 2000, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, May 11 that Mr. Knight "did more to advance equal marriage rights in California." If Proposition 22 hadn't happened, Marshall said, he doubted there would be the expanded domestic partner law that was passed last year.

"He had a huge impact for the positive for gay couples, even though his intent was malicious," Marshall said.

Marshall noted that once Proposition 22 qualified for the ballot, proponents of the initiative kept Mr. Knight out of the spotlight during the campaign.

"I wish they had let him speak,

page 19 ►

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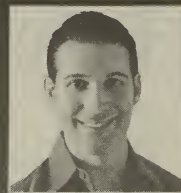
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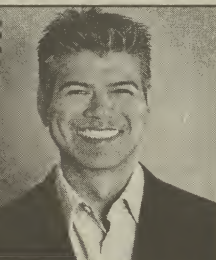
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OPEN FORUM

Pete Knight's shameful legacy

State Senator William J. "Pete" Knight, who died last week at the age of 74, spent much of his life in public office belittling and stigmatizing the gay and lesbian community. His homophobic actions reached their zenith with Proposition 22, the 2000 ballot measure that defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman. The so-called Knight initiative (technically called the "Limit on Marriages" initiative) was approved by 60 percent of California voters and, to this day, remains a major hurdle in the quest for equal marriage rights in the Golden State.

As a member of the Legislature, Mr. Knight tried in vain to pass laws similar to the initiative. Failure in those efforts led him to take the issue to the voters through the initiative process. From the moment Proposition 22 qualified for the ballot, the LGBT community was put on the defensive and was distracted by an overwhelming political and financial burden. Poll after poll found support for the initiative hovering in the 59 percent range, while opponents were never able to muster much above 40 percent. Indeed, the end result on election day mirrored virtually every poll that was conducted - 60 percent supported the initiative, 40 percent opposed it. The community was never able to increase its base of supporters in fighting Proposition 22. Despite hundreds of thousands of dollars spent on television ads, endorsement support from most major newspapers, and support from many Democratic lawmakers, celebrities, and the like, we suffered a huge setback in March 2000. And today, we're stuck with this crummy 14-word addition to the state's family code that continues to hamper us.

Consider:
• Opponents of equal rights for gays and lesbians tried using Proposition 22 last year after then-Governor Gray Davis signed AB205 into law. Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's (D-Los Angeles) law expands

rights and responsibilities for state-registered domestic partners; it does not legalize same-sex marriage, yet conservatives bring up Proposition 22 when railing against the bill.

• Proposition 22 is regularly cited by the right-wing groups fighting San Francisco's decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

• Proposition 22 is mentioned by opponents of AB1967, Assemblyman Mark Leno's (D-San Francisco) Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act, despite the fact that Leno's bill would affect an entirely different section of the state's family code. Proposition 22 deals with the part of

the family code pertaining to marriages performed outside of the state; Leno's bill would amend the family code section pertaining to marriages performed in the state.

Then there is the personal toll Mr. Knight's antigay beliefs had on his own family. Most tragically, he rejected his own son, David, when he came out of the closet. Mr. Knight's younger brother died from AIDS-related complications.

In the end, Mr. Knight's legacy is shameful. He did nothing to galvanize the gay rights movement in California. His actions did force the community to expend valuable resources on a losing cause - the reverberations of which haunt us, now more than ever. ▼



Editorial



NEWS ITEM: VIRGINIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTES TO STRIP SAME-SEX COUPLES OF ALL LEGAL RIGHTS.

Trans-panic in Araujo trial

by Tina D'Elia & Christopher Daley

Well, we've been here before. A member of the LGBT community is murdered in a horrific hate crime. Suspects are identified, caught, and put on trial. Then, bringing our worst fears to life, the defendants' attorneys play to societal bias against our communities to explain their clients' actions in an attempt to get acquittals or reduced convictions. Many of the arguments currently being made by defense attorneys for two of the three defendants in Gwen Araujo's murder trial are inappropriate and are causing harm to transgender people and their families well outside of a courtroom in Hayward.

Without a doubt, aggressive criminal defense attorneys are integral to a well functioning justice system. And in a system as dysfunctional as ours, they are indispensable. You don't need to look any further than the cases of Yaser Esam Hamdi and Jose Padilla to see what would happen if ethical criminal defense attorneys weren't able to do their job.

However, much of the rhetoric coming from defense attorneys Tony Serra and Michael Thorman is anything but ethical. Serra and Thorman are pulling out the type of "blame the victim" arguments that we all thought had been retired 20 years ago. They are asking questions about what Araujo was wearing the night she was murdered, portraying her as deceitful, and saying that she took away the right of one defendant to be heterosexual not because these issues are relevant to the case. They are raising them to get an emotional response from the jury in order to reduce the standard to which our society should hold their clients responsible for their actions.

In recent testimony, the prosecution's star witness, Jaron Nabors, epitomized this idea. Nabors has pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter for his involvement in Araujo's killing. During testimony, he told the court that one of the reasons he turned over the names of Michael Magidson and Jose Merel - both of whom allegedly had sex with

Araujo - to the Fremont Police Department was his belief that the police would go easy on them because of what "Gwen had done to them." Picking up on Nabors's expectations, Serra and Thorman are playing on the belief that one of the few things that could be worse for a "straight" guy than to have sex with a transgender woman would be for his friends to find out about it.

Resting at the core of Serra and Thorman's rhetoric is the assertion that Araujo's transition from male to female was an act of deceit and that we should blame her if the defendants were sexually attracted to her. Serra and Thorman would have us believe that Araujo, and by extension all transgender people, are dishonest when they assert their gender identity as their gender. That, at the end of the day, they are only playing "make-believe" and are therefore partially responsible for any violence that occurs when the curtain is pulled back.

This argument stands in sharp contrast to our experiences as non-transgender people working, socializing, and/or partnering with transgender people. When a transgender person transitions from their birth identified gender to their actual gender, they are bravely showing their true self to the world. They are fighting against powerful societal forces that have conscripted an overwhelming number of characteristics onto them based solely on stereotypes about genitalia and reproductive organs. Transition is not an act of deceit or make-believe, but instead a powerful act of living a truthful life.

Serra and Thorman are denigrating these acts. And the effects of their arguments are not limited to Department 510 at the Hayward Hall of Justice. The negative stereotypes about transgender people that are being reinforced by Serra and Thorman's irresponsible rhetoric have the potential for leading to increased violence and discrimination against transgender people. They are being picked up by media across the state - oftentimes uncritically - and

consumed by potential perpetrators of hate violence. Transgender people and their families are also absorbing these messages. We've spoken to people who are having a hard time following the trial because of how personally they are taking the defense team's comments.

While it's pointless, at this time, to ask Serra and Thorman to clean up their act, as a community we can take proactive steps to mitigate the damage they are doing. We encourage each of you to engage your friends, co-workers, family, and neighbors in conversations about how these types of arguments don't serve our criminal justice system and poison the atmosphere for transgender people and their families.

One way to start these conversations is to participate in CUAV's "Butterfly Campaign" by wearing and giving out butterfly stickers in support of Araujo, her family, and friends.

We would also encourage you to participate in the media dialogue by writing letters to the editor and submitting commentaries to broadcast media focusing on the truths that are ignored by the defense team's theories. Finally, participate in the movement to change school environments so that students can learn about transgender people and develop the kind of understanding that could have prevented Araujo from being murdered. One concrete way to do this is to support the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund of the Horizons Foundation (you can get more information at www.horizonsfoundation.org).

All of us have a stake in preventing another hate crime from occurring and all of us have a responsibility to make sure that the truths underlying Araujo's murder aren't distorted or forgotten. ▼

Tina D'Elia is the hate violence survivor program director at Community United Against Violence. **Christopher Daley, Esq.**, is co-director of the Transgender Law Center.

LETTERS

Missing Bella

The Castro will never be the same without our beautiful Bella.

Jim Robbie Robinson
San Francisco

Sheehy had choice for AIDS czar

Reports that Mayor Newsom is vetting Jeff Sheehy for a position as an unpaid AIDS czar are alarming [*"Newsom vets Sheehy for AIDS czar role," April 29*]. Sheehy is the worst possible candidate for the job.

To begin with, Alexander Cockburn of www.coun-terpunch.org reported in January 2002 that Sheehy and former AIDS Czar Mike Shriver met on November 19, 2001 (after Shriver had, reportedly, already went on disability leave) with officials from UCSF, the mayor's AIDS office, and the FBI to discuss filing domestic terrorism charges against ACTUP/SF using the despicable Patriot Act. Recently, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed a resolution condemning the Patriot Act, as have a number of jurisdictions around the country. As a participant of that meeting, Sheehy appears to be all too willing to silence public dissent by hauling out the Patriot Act; in so doing, Sheehy violates our community norms opposing John Ashcroft and the Bush administration's repressive policies, calling into question Sheehy's ethical decision-making.

Secondly, coverage in the B.A.R. on April 29 indicates he doesn't want the czar position to take up too much time from his day job and that Sheehy sees the czar role as being a confidential adviser to the mayor. As open government capital of the world with our sunshine ordinance, we do not need closed-door "confidential" conversations conducted violating the public's right to know what our government is doing in the policy arena. That Sheehy prefers to skirt open government makes him an inappropriate pick for this job.

Then there's the problem with Sheehy's day job. As deputy director of communications at UCSF's AIDS Research Institute – the same employer of Mike Shriver – Sheehy is little more than a publicist. We do not need "spinmeisters" setting HIV/AIDS policies behind closed doors. ARI churns out pseudo-science masquerading as real science, and as co-sponsor of the failed 2001 HIV Consensus meeting, ARI has failed (along with DPH), to issue an unabridged report from that meeting. The meeting was supposed to have issued an official best-guess estimate of the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Instead, we received a crummy 14-page abridged report done in Power Point.

As well, UCSF receives funding from the Ryan White CARE Act program for healthcare services, and it would present a potential conflict of interest for any UCSF department to then be advising the mayor on AIDS funding policies that could affect the amount of funding UCSF receives from CARE funds. It would be nearly impossible for Sheehy to remain objective about UCSF.

The community should actively lobby Mayor Newsom, telling him we do not want Sheehy to be our next AIDS czar, and aggressively block this appointment.

Patrick Monette-Shaw
San Francisco

Stop AIDS and Savage

Brent Calderwood raised several important points in his opinion piece reacting to a community forum featuring Dan Savage [*"The Savage truth," Guest Opinion, May 6*]. He should be commended for his candor in conveying his personal experiences. The community forum on April 27 was co-sponsored by the Stop AIDS Project and the DPH's STD unit. Stop AIDS did not, as Calderwood asserts "under promote" the event, in fact more than 150 people attended the forum and Stop AIDS and the DPH advertised the event, distributing flyers, posters, and e-mails to encourage attendance. Stop AIDS signed up to help sponsor and promote the event with full knowledge of the controversial stances Mr. Savage often takes. Inviting Savage to speak is consistent with the frank and open dialogue that Stop AIDS fosters in our programs and social marketing campaigns.

In addition, Calderwood states that HIV rates are "skyrocketing." While data is limited in taking an absolutely accurate and current snapshot of new infections among gay and bisexual men in San Francisco, a mix of special studies, STD, and behavioral trends indicates that HIV incidence rose among men who have sex with men from 1995 to 2001, then leveled off, and may now be declining. This is important to point out, not because we should pat ourselves on the back and go home, but rather because it represents an important turn in the epidemic that requires HIV prevention organizations to retool and emphasize those programs that are working, such as prevention with HIV positive individuals.

The Stop AIDS Project has been at the forefront nationally in dealing with several of the issues that Calderwood and Savage bring up. Last year the project launched a controversial "HIV Is No Picnic" social

marketing campaign that, far from "glamorizing HIV," speaks the truth about symptoms associated with HIV/AIDS. Every three months Stop AIDS produces a two-day intensive retreat, the Plus Seminar, for HIV-positive people, their partners, and others affected by HIV; Stop AIDS produces "Magnetic Love," a workshop specifically for "mixed-status" men; and Stop AIDS created Positive Force, a cutting-edge program that helps HIV-positive men take a role in HIV prevention. In addition, Stop AIDS provides several programs and workshops for HIV-negative men struggling with the basics of "safer sex" and the more complex issues of sex in the context of our lives.

Those readers dealing with any of the above issues are always welcome to attend Stop AIDS Project programs. HIV prevention is a community-wide and individual responsibility that we can only achieve together.

Darlene Weide, Executive Director
Stop AIDS Project

Dan Savage and Matthew Cusick

I believe Dan Savage should be applauded and commended for his eye-opening remarks on the gay community's current state of sexual prowess and virtual-condoning of promiscuity [*"Sex columnist admonishes gay men for unsafe sex," April 29*]. With the recent rise of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, this is no time to cry foul when sexual oppression is supposedly occurring toward the gay community. Sexual awareness is majestically important and must be conveyed with or without dependence on federal funds or private donations. Despite the recent increase in medical assistance to help thwart the spreading of HIV infections, the gay community continues practicing risky behavior without truly pondering the dire consequences that ensue.

I should know since I see and hear about it all the time.

Not only do I overhear young gay men boasting (at cafes, bars, and other social areas) about their having unprotected sex and how good it feels, but professional colleagues and other supposed intelligent, educated associates of mine are having casual encounters without taking the time to unroll a condom. It surprises me into absolute disbelief these very people I personally know – doctors, lawyers, engineers, police officers, financial advisers – are simply shrugging off the threatening nature of the diseases out there for their own "pure and real" sexual gratification.

And when I hear about those criticizing people like Dan Savage for being antagonistic toward their own, I can't help but feel absolutely insulted that members within the gay community are not suppose to think individually for their own. Just because we all are identified under the same polychromatic flag doesn't mean we are all united with the same ideals and politics. Without the voices of disagreement, we would all be one community of gullible and dying individuals.

Which brings me to Matthew Cusick. I don't sympathize with his cause, and believe his legal confrontation with Cirque du Soleil was more for the grounds of establishing personal [financial] equity than helping to abolish discrimination of others unfortunately infected with HIV [*"Cirque settles with HIV+ gymnast for \$600K," April 29*]. Compared to past cases where individuals fought successfully for the same reason as Mr. Cusick, such legal matters were not heavily reported in the media, especially in the gay press. Yet, I can't help but feel Mr. Cusick's publicity was based more on a whiny pretty boy crying foul against a renowned dance company when he should have known better and used a condom! The Cusick settlement award ostensibly sends out the wrong message about HIV discrimination. As long as someone is infected and discriminated against, employers have no recourse but to overextend themselves to those with such illnesses, which could have been diligently prevented to begin with.

The real hero here must be Dan Savage for his rhetorical crusade in alerting the gay community about the severity of today's (gay) status quo. Unfortunately, I do not feel the rest of the gay community shares what Dan Savage and I are promulgating. Instead, our perspectives are perceived as a self-oppressive, self-censuring, and siding with conservatives against a community that prides itself on sexual honesty and openness. Not so! The bottom line is caring for the health, maturing reputation, and integrity we must all maintain to continue pursuit of content, long-lasting, disease-free lives. Or is this just too abnormal nowadays amongst us in the gay community?

Brad Meyers
San Francisco

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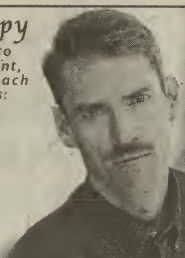
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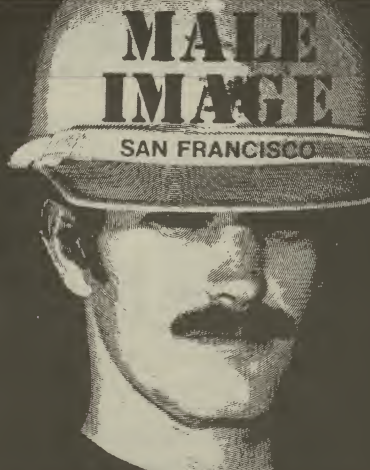
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Exclusionary tactics

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

I recently had the pleasure of walking up Rhode Island Avenue in Washington, D.C., and standing in front of a large, glass-fronted building. In my hand was a sign that said, simply, "Ten Years of Exclusion." The building we were standing in front of had a large, burnished aluminum sign near the top — in the shape of an "equal" sign.

Yes, the building is the office of the Human Rights Campaign.

I was proud to stand outside that building, attracting the attention of those behind the glass windows as well as many passersby. If anything, this was nothing more than yet another skirmish in a battle that has been brewing for a very long time — and a struggle that is heating up yet again.

It will come as no surprise to many that there has been a long history of bad blood between HRC and transgender activists.

For the last decade — as transgender people have fought to be included in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act — HRC has stood firm in its belief that adding "transgender" to this bill would weaken its chances of passage.

The argument is that it is better to stick with political expediency than wait for a future time when an all-inclusive bill would be accepted. After all, one could simply attempt to include transgender people later, or craft a future bill to cover gender identity or expression.

Similar arguments have been made regarding the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, otherwise known as the federal hate crimes bill. While "gender" is included within the proposed legislation, it is unclear whether it will apply to transgender people. Some have said that it is best to just assume that it will rather than worry about adding specific language that may make the bill harder to pass. Never mind that neither ENDA nor LLEEA are going anywhere in a Republican-dominated Congress.

Over the last decade many things have changed. The transgender community has gone from a blip on the radar screen of a relatively small number of queer rights groups to being an accepted — if often underserved and misunderstood — part of the larger community. The term "transgender" itself has gone from obscurity to the mass media and, yes, the floors of Congress.

Indeed, gender identity or expression has been included in most rights bills passed on the last handful of years, alongside sexual orientation.

Yet while rights victories across the country have become vastly more inclusive of transgender and gender variant language, transgender activists have been told that a transgender inclusive ENDA is still as risky a proposition now as it was in 1994.

Now, information has come to me that shows why this remains the case within the Beltway, even while transgender-inclusive change has happened across the country. The answer is as simple as it is disturbing: HRC itself has been the

roadblock.

A day before I stood in front of HRC's swank offices, another activist visited a congressman's office. The congressman was supportive of transgender inclusion, but wondered out loud why HRC was not "on board" with this. Over the course of the next day, more of those lobbying heard similar questions from congressional aides.

It isn't Congress that is so much resistant to trans-inclusive bills — it is those we entrust to push for our rights in Washington, D.C. The tail has been wagging the dog all along, as HRC keeps transgender-inclusive language out of the offices of our legislators, rather than assisting in the education of these same individuals on the need for such language.

In the week that followed this protest, even more damning reports began to surface, including allegations that HRC had attempted to influence a trans-supportive organization to change its stance towards trans inclusion. I also heard stories that reached far beyond simply the needs of transgender people, including members of the leather community who were turned away from HRC functions due to their — conservative by most standards — formal leather wear.

The day of the protest in D.C., a HRC representative came out to meet our protesters, and ask us in-



Christine Smith

side and away from the public eye. It was myself and the primary organizer of the protest who went inside while the rest of our group continued outside. We also took a camera crew — which had been filming transgender lobbying efforts earlier that day — inside to film a closed door meeting with a small group of HRC officials.

Amidst the platitudes and promises, it was mentioned that HRC was intending to discuss whether it should support only transgender-inclusive bills in the future at its August board meeting.

Now is where you, the reader, come in. You know where I stand on this, and you know that I'm not afraid to stand out in front of the HRC offices in Washington, D.C. to show my frustration with an organization that claims to include me, yet seems to work against me when I'm not watching.

If this behavior doesn't sit well with you, then take your own stand. When you are asked at Pride to contribute to HRC, decline. If you are a member, do not renew your membership. Exclude yourself — and your money — from an organization that chooses to exclude other members of your community. Let HRC know that if we are indeed one community, then we only need one fully inclusive bill to cover us all.

Finally, to those reading who may well be voting in August during HRC's board meeting, please consider a vote for change. If you are truly for human rights, know that these should be given to all: one should never pick and choose who deserves legal protections based on supposed political expediency. ▼

Gwen Smith thanks those few anonymous sources who have contributed immeasurably to the above piece. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

AZ Web site must face CA antigay lawsuit

by Zak Szymanski

Cyberspace boundaries got a bit clearer — and LGBT couples a bit more optimistic — when a federal court ruled May 3 that an Arizona-based Internet adoption site must stand trial for its refusal to comply with California anti-discrimination laws.

The site — Adoption.com — is the largest online adoption site in the country, and as part of its services allows prospective parents to post their profiles in hopes of connecting with birth mothers. Same-sex couples, however, are not per-

mitted to post their profiles.

Last December, the National Center for Lesbian Rights along with the law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, filed a complaint on behalf of San Jose residents Rich and Michael Butler, who were prohibited from posting their profile on Adoption.com in 2002.

The suit alleges that excluding same-sex couples from Adoption.com violates California law, which prohibits businesses from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation.

NCLR Executive Director Kate Kendell said that there was no lan-

guage on the site prohibiting same-sex couples from using the service until the legal issues surrounding the Butlers' rejection were brought to Adoption.com's attention. The eligibility requirements were then carefully constructed to welcome "traditional" families, and only those who are "legally married" in a union recognized by all 50 states.

"Using marital status as an exclusion is a red herring, a stand-in for hostility toward lesbian and gay couples," Kendell told the Bay Area Reporter upon filing the suit last year. "It is not a permitted

POLITICS

Boxer has big lead in polls and fundraising

by Wayne Friday

It is a long time (particularly in politics) from May to November, but leaders of both the Democratic and Republican parties feel that California's 55 electoral votes are pretty safe for Senator **John Kerry** (D) in the presidential election to be held some six months from now, and though Republicans are loathe to say so, the re-election of Democratic U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer** looks like a sure thing as well.

Barring a political upset the likes of which has not been seen in this state in decades, Boxer should easily defeat her Republican challenger, former California Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, on November 2. Indeed, a recent poll by the *Los Angeles Times* indicates that Boxer would defeat Jones by a 20-percentage point blowout. The April 17-21 poll of 1,265 registered voters considered most likely to vote shows the incumbent with a 54 percent to 34 percent lead over her GOP challenger, with only 12 percent undecided.

Most helpful to Boxer, in this heavily Democratic state, is the fact that among registered Democrats she's pulling a whopping 84 percent of her party's base; Boxer is also pulling a respectable 16 percent of the registered GOP voters, most likely those of pro-choice Republican women.

What is somewhat more surprising though, is that after two terms in the Senate, with a record to defend, not only is Boxer highly popular among her own party, but she is, according to the *Times* poll, leading Jones among independent voters, taking 54 percent, with only 20 percent leaning toward the Republican candidate, and 23 percent of the independents claiming to still be undecided.

Jones's biggest political problem? Abortion. During the primary race earlier this year, Jones's key GOP opponent, former U.S. Treasurer **Rosario Marin**, who was pro-choice, warned that Jones, who is strongly anti-abortion, wouldn't do well against Boxer. In fact, Marin openly predicted that only a pro-choice Republican candidate could defeat Boxer in November. Since losing to the better-known Jones in the March primary, Marin has been appointed to a cushy Sacramento job by Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, who endorsed Jones, but the Jones-Marín primary battle was a bitter one and she has yet to endorse his candidacy.

Boxer has also outpaced Jones in the fundraising department, having reportedly raised some \$11 million, while Jones's latest reporting has him with only \$1.45 million in contributions from individuals, \$162,000 from political action committees, and a loan to his own campaign of \$350,000.

Look for Boxer to make a pitch to not only her solid Democratic base, but to the hundreds of thousands of pro-choice women in the Republican Party as well. Will Marin eventually endorse Jones? Probably, but it is expected to be at best a lukewarm endorsement, and even those closest to Schwarzenegger are reportedly admitting that with the Bush cam-



Christine Chavez and Carole Migden at last week's commitment ceremony.

paign all but bypassing California in November, without the benefit of a full-fledged campaign by the national GOP and the big bucks it brings, Jones appears headed to a resounding defeat at the hands of Boxer as she seeks a third term in the November general election.

Politics and people

Retired San Francisco Superior Court Judge **Lillian Sing** definitely will be a candidate for supervisor in District 1 this November and that means big trouble for incumbent Supervisor **Jake McGoldrick** as the popular Sing is a tireless campaigner and has loads of admirers and friends. Sing made her announcement Wednesday morning. McGoldrick will also likely face **Joe O'Donoghue**, who reportedly is moving to District 1 to enter the race.

Seeking to

increase Latino support for same-sex marriage, state Board of Equalization Chairwoman **Carole Migden** enlisted the help of **Christine Chavez**, granddaughter of labor and civil rights leader Cesar Chavez, for a Cinco de Mayo event May 5 in Sacramento. Chavez presided over the commitment ceremony of seven gay and lesbian couples. "I hope this will spur the debate," Chavez told the *Los Angeles Times*. "I hope people will stop me on the street to talk about this. I'm going to tell them this is about championing equality for everyone, not just Latinos."

Monday morning's television carried live coverage of President **George W. Bush**, after a rushed ass-covering trip to the Pentagon, standing with **Dick Cheney** at his side, reading a carefully-prepared statement in which he insisted that Secretary of Defense **Donald Rumsfeld** was "doing a superb job" adding that "the nation owes him a debt of gratitude." Bush took no questions from dozens of reporters gathered at the Pentagon. Meanwhile, more Democratic leaders are calling for Rumsfeld's resignation over the growing prisoner abuse scandal at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California) insists that if she had known about District Attorney **Kamala Harris's** views on the death penalty, she probably wouldn't have endorsed her last fall. Well, with all due respect to the good senator, if she doesn't know a candidate's views she should not be endorsing them for anything. As for Harris, she's a committed, honest, tough prosecutor and rest assured she will be

putting the alleged killer of Officer Isaac Espinoza away not to see the light of day again. It's all but impossible to get the death penalty in the Bay Area (especially San Francisco County) and everyone knows that; because of recent changes in sentencing laws that really puts the hammer to violent criminals, jurors are even more reluctant to sentence any murderers to death, so life in prison without the possibility of parole is more likely the way to get a guilty verdict. In defending Harris, Alameda County District Attorney **Tom Orloff**, Ms. Harris's former boss, noted that sending a cop killer to death row is now nearly impossible without clear proof that the accused killer had a prior plan to specifically kill a police officer. With a LWP conviction, the issue isn't whether a cop killer will die in prison, but when.

Donna Sachet, **Audrey Joseph**, **Larry Hashbarger**, and **Bob Brunson** are co-hosting a reelection fundraiser for Assemblyman **Mark Leno** at the popular Asia SF club, 9th and Howard streets, Monday, May 17, from 6-8 p.m. Food, drinks, and entertainment aplenty (\$125 donation asked; 916-441-6855 for info).

In Warroad, Minnesota, a gay couple was told they no longer could take communion or sing in the choir at their Catholic church because of their relationship. **Dale Sand** and **Tom Pepera**, who have been together for five years, said their priest asked them to restrict participation in church activities after Sand wrote a letter supporting same-sex marriage that was published in the *Grand Forks* (North Dakota) *Herald* newspaper. And in Kansas, a proposed constitutional amendment declaring that the state recognizes marriage as being only between one man and one woman failed to win enough House support in Topeka to submit it to voters; the vote in the Kansas House was 79-45, just five votes shy of the needed two-thirds majority. The state Senate had previously adopted the proposal.

In Sacramento last week, Governor Schwarzenegger's administration reportedly sneaked into the office of a state official and mounted a photograph of the new governor after the officeholder had refused to do so himself. Superintendent of Public Instruction **Jack O'Connell**, a Democrat (the post is officially nonpartisan), didn't want the photo of the governor in his office because his office's work can include policy disputes with the governor. Maintenance workers installed it after the Department of Education staff had left the office for the day.

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Saddamites in the military

by Dale Carpenter

With the sexual abuse scandal coming out of the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq, the U.S. military continues its long and complex relationship with homosexuality.

The American military had its origins as an effective fighting force in the training and discipline given it by Baron Frederick von Steuben, who trained General George Washington's rag-tag forces at Valley Forge in 1778. Von Steuben, a Prussian, literally wrote the book on American military discipline and order. Historians believe he was indispensable to the success of the Continental Army, and therefore to American independence. But, according to author Randy Shilts, von Steuben's services were available to the Americans in 1778 only because he had fled Prussia after being accused of "having taken familiarities with young boys which [Prussian] law forbids and punishes severely."

That same year, the Continental Army court-martialed a lieutenant general who had been caught in bed with another man. He was the first known victim of the American military's anti-homosexual policies.

Beginning in the 20th century, the military adopted formal regulations excluding homosexuals from service. Regulations informed draft boards and officers that male homosexuals could be detected by "feminine body char-

acteristics," "effeminacy in dress or manner," or "patulous [enlarged] rectum." Effeminate men who were otherwise "normal" should be rejected for service, according to the regulations, because they "would become subject to ridicule and 'joshing' which will harm the general morale and will incapacitate the individuals."

Yet during each period of war, discharges for homosexuality have declined. During World War II, for example, more than 18 million Americans were inducted, but fewer than 5,000 were rejected for homosexuality. My grandfather, who served in the Pacific theater, tells me that known homosexuals often served without incident or problem during the war. He does recall, however, that in a few cases they were subjected to taunting, teasing, and even physical abuse.

Physical and verbal abuse, accompanied by officially sanctioned witch-hunts delving into soldiers' private lives, have been hallmarks of the military's treatment of known and suspected gays.

Who can forget the ghastly murder of Private First Class Barry Winchell, bludgeoned with a baseball bat in his sleep by a fellow soldier who had heard rumors Winchell was gay?

Who can forget the chilling testimony of Marine Colonel Frederick Peck, before the Senate Armed Services Committee dur-

ing the debate over "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"? Peck said he would not want his own gay son to serve in the military because "I would be very fearful that his life would be in jeopardy from his own troops."

Now there is evidence that U.S. soldiers sought to humiliate some Iraqi prisoners by forcing them to strip and simulate homosexual acts. One photo shows a naked male prisoner kneeling in front of another naked male prisoner, as if performing oral sex.

Other photos show nude male prisoners' bodies entwined with one another. According to one report, a male prisoner was sodomized "with a chemical light and perhaps a broomstick." More such horrific revelations

are sure to come.

Why would U.S. soldiers, some seen smiling next to their live pornography, subject prisoners to this abuse? Perhaps the abuse was an attempt to "break down" the prisoners before interrogation. Perhaps it was considered punishment for bad behavior. Perhaps the soldiers were just having some sadistic fun. Perhaps some combination of these was involved. We'll learn more when the trials begin.

But why the specifically homosexual nature of the abuse? I can think of many ways to humiliate someone, but this would not be the first way that comes to mind.

The answer, I think, comes from the words of one of the pris-

oners, as quoted by the Associate Press: "We are men. It's OK if they beat me," he said. "Beatings don't hurt us; it's just a blow. But no one would want their manhood to be shattered. They wanted us to feel as though we were women, the way women feel, and this is the worst insult, to feel like a woman."

U.S. soldiers, male and female, were exploiting a commonly accepted fact of military cultures around the world: the most degrading thing that can happen to a man is to be feminized, and to be homosexual is to be feminized. That fact has long been part of U.S. military culture.

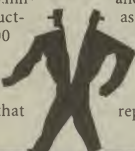
There are two other facile, but perhaps correct, conclusions to draw about the homosexual nature of the abuse at the Abu Ghraib prison. One is that the incidents evidence a culture of extreme homophobia in the U.S. military. On the other hand, prison authorities may have primarily been taking advantage of the revulsion toward homosexuality evident in Islamic societies.

The other facile conclusion is that the homophobia of the Bush

administration has fueled these incidents. The Bush administration has done some fairly rotten things, starting with the president's unforgivable support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. But I doubt such things trickle down much. Discharges for homosexuality are actually lower now than they were when Bill Clinton, a relatively gay-friendly president, was in office. On the other hand, that could be attributable to the war.

The sexual abuse scandal coming out of the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq is full of ironies. Here we have American soldiers humiliating captured Iraqis in the very prison where Saddam Hussein's henchmen tortured people. In any event, it is just another chapter in the military's schizophrenic gay history. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indiegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



OutRight

AZ Web site

◀ page 8

basis for exclusion since there is no way for lesbian and gay couples to meet that requirement."

Representatives from Adoption.com did not return phone calls from the B.A.R. seeking comment.

But reports indicate that the site argued that it should be judged by the law in Arizona, which unlike California and several other states, does not have a nondiscrimination code that covers sexual orientation.

The site may be based in Arizona, but its services reach potential parents across the country. Applying cyberspace to real space is a "somewhat untested area of the law," according to Kendell, but

Adoption.com "specifically targets California and intentionally induces prospective adoptive parents from California to use their services."

"Simply because it is not bricks and mortar does not give them a free pass to engage in what otherwise would be unlawful discrimination," she added.

Last week, Federal District Court Judge Phyllis Hamilton agreed that the couple has a case based on California law, a decision that the men applauded.

"We are relieved that we will have a chance to hold Adoption.com accountable for violating California law by discriminating against gay and lesbian couples," said Rich Butler. "Same-sex couples are just as capable of providing good homes for children as different-sex couples." ▼

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Repeat performance

by Jane Warner

Hattie at Market, May 9, 2 p.m.: A woman exiting her house saw a person on the sidewalk wearing only a woman's bra and loosely fitting trench coat. Appearing to be intoxicated, the person's hands were hidden in the groin area, and an empty pint of vodka lay nearby. A passing pedestrian tried to put a blanket over the person, who angrily pushed it away. Alarmed, the resident called 911. When an officer arrived, the suspect was fully exposed. The officer tried to arrest the suspect, who resisted. The officer was eventually able to make

an arrest. The offender, 59, was taken to Mission Station and booked for engaging in a lewd act, resisting arrest, and public intoxication. The officer also ran a records check revealing that in the last three years the suspect had been arrested 43 times in the Castro neighborhood.

Weight around

24-hour Fitness, 2145 Market Street, April 23, 7:45 p.m.: While using the gym, two men started to have an argument after one accidentally bumped

into the other. A heated verbal exchange followed and one of the men punched the other in the face. "All you have to say is excuse me," the suspect stated. Another man tried to intervene and separate the two, but they continued to argue. The suspect — described as 6 feet, 3 inches tall, 200 pounds, wearing a navy blue shirt and khaki pants — struck his victim again, slapping him across the face, then left the gym. Police arrived and took a report from the victim. ▼



AIDS agencies

◀ page 2

meant mental health and substance abuse services have taken cuts just because of their lower priority. And yet, we know that for many people living with HIV and AIDS there are acute mental health problems."

Brett Andrews, PRC's executive

director, said while a chart on the proposed cuts says his program only serves 22 clients, it is really 400 people who would be impacted if the agency lost its \$140,000 contract to provide back-to-work training for people with AIDS.

"It is a significant cut within the program. We would have to lay off two full-time employees," said Andrews. "Our strategy is very much like last year, to contin-

ue to remind and educate our legislators and the San Francisco community of the significance of these services."

The Health Commission will finalize the contingency plan at its May 18 meeting. Agency directors are already meeting with members of the Board of Supervisors to lobby for their programs and have funding restored. The supervisors will take up the budget in June. ▼

Governor Pride

◀ page 1

rector of Pride, told the B.A.R. that he was "very, very happy" to have received the letter.

"It's a most welcome letter," Witherington said Tuesday afternoon.

Witherington pointed out that former GOP Governor Pete Wilson never did submit a welcome letter; Democratic Governor Gray Davis was the first, he added.

"I'm very pleased Governor Schwarzenegger followed in that tradition," Witherington said.

Since last year's Pride, of course, Davis was ousted from office in the historic recall election last fall, and Schwarzenegger was swept into office during the same election.

Up until the welcome letter, Schwarzenegger has said very little regarding the LGBT community, and the comments have been a mixed bag. During the recall campaign, the governor's staff said

that Schwarzenegger would not have signed AB205, Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's (D-Los Angeles) bill that expands rights and responsibilities for state-registered domestic partners.

In March, during the "Winter of Love" when San Francisco was in the midst of marrying same-sex couples, Schwarzenegger made what many in the community considered negative remarks. In a nationally televised interview on NBC's *Meet the Press*, Schwarzenegger said there could be riots in the streets if the city continued performing gay and lesbian weddings. Less than two weeks later, however, the governor was on NBC's *Tonight Show* and told host Jay Leno that it would be "fine with me" if voters or the courts changed state law to permit same-sex unions.

On March 11, the California Supreme Court ordered San Francisco to stop performing the gay nuptials. The justices will hear arguments in the case May 25.

Schwarzenegger has not commented on Assemblyman Mark

Leno's (D-San Francisco) AB1967, the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act, which would amend the state's family code to allow same-sex couples to obtain a marriage license. On the national level, President Bush has refused to proclaim June as Gay Pride Month since taking office. ▼

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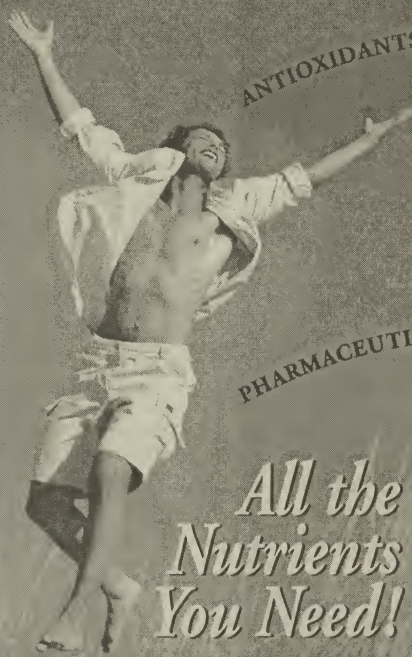
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The STOP AIDS Project is seeking gay, bi and trans men 40 years and older to include in a new brochure and campaign about aging and staying HIV negative.

We'd love your face and voice. Please call Paul Miller at 415.575.0150 x229 for more info. Please RSVP! Photoshoot to take place on May 18-19.



Longtime LLEGÓ exec. director resigns

by Zak Szymanski

If all good runs must come to an end, most people seem to agree that it's best to leave while the going is still good.

Eight years ago, LLEGÓ — the National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization in Washington, D.C. — had a staff of 10 people and a budget of \$500,000. Under the leadership of Executive Director Martín Ornelas-Quintero, it has since doubled its staff, tripled its budget, and expanded the scope of its work nationally and internationally.

On May 3, LLEGÓ announced that Ornelas-Quintero is stepping down, effective upon his contract's expiration July 31. A search is already under way for his replacement. Although unreachable

by the Bay Area Reporter by press time, Ornelas-Quintero said in a statement that his time and energies now belonged to his family.

"I am very proud of all that has been accomplished during my tenure as executive director. It's time now for someone else to take it to a new level," said Ornelas-Quintero. "And it's time to place my passion for LLEGÓ into my family and into raising my son."

He emphasized that LLEGÓ's continued success would require further development of its public policy and government relations work, and the ability to raise more unrestricted funds.

The organization is the only national nonprofit devoted to advocating for Latina/o LGBT communities, which it has done through the successful building of coalitions nationwide.

Born out of the HIV/AIDS crisis and founded in 1987, the organization has focused on strengthening the cultural competency of HIV prevention programs. Under Ornelas-Quintero, LLEGÓ launched Horizontes, a program that works with service providers and advocates promoting HIV testing and prevention. It has also run programs to strengthen community-based organizations and political mobilization.

"The Latino LGBT movement has matured a great deal in the last decade with the Latino population explosion in the United States," said Damian Goldvarg, LLEGÓ board co-chair. "Not only are Latinos players in all aspects of life from business to politics to entertainment, but, because of Martín's vision and perseverance, Latinos are now a force to be reckoned with in the LGBT civil rights movement."

Local groups also said that they are grateful for the work of Ornelas-Quintero.

"He's done an incredible job, and gave a lot of his life to the organization," said Prado Gomez, executive director of Proyecto



LLEGÓ's Martín Ornelas-Quintero

ContraSIDA Por Vida, a Latina/o LGBT and HIV organization in the Mission District.

Gomez said that Ornelas-Quintero's departure "makes sense" after all these years, and that he is not concerned about the organization's future.

"It has grown dramatically

since he's been there," he said, adding that such growth has strengthened local groups nationwide. "It's important, as local organizations, to feel like there's a national voice representing the queer Latino community. It validates our work and really is an invaluable organization to have." ▼

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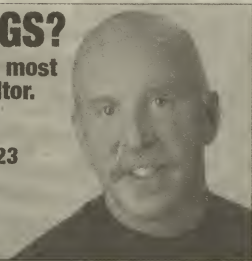
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City plans to cut HIV infections in half by 2008

by Matthew S. Bajko

By 2008 San Francisco health officials want to reduce by half new HIV infections among gay and bisexual men, injection drug users, and male-to-female transgender people, as well as eliminate perinatal infections and those among heterosexuals.

The goals are outlined in the city's 2004 HIV Prevention Plan and mark the first time health officials have committed themselves to reaching such specified targets. It is estimated there are 1,082 new HIV infections each year, with 90 percent of those among gay and bi men.

"It is our intent. We don't write documents just to print them so we certainly intend to try to do it," said Steven Tierney, the city's director of HIV prevention and a co-chair of the HIV Prevention and Planning Council, which spent the last year developing the new plan.

Officials at the Stop AIDS Project, which has two employees as HPPC members, said it is important to set goals in HIV prevention that do aim high.

"While the goal is high, it's clear it will take every institution in the gay and lesbian community to step up to the plate to achieve that goal," said Stop AIDS spokesman Jason Riggs. "It's a different perspective. It is going to take an active commitment among every institution that collectively creates the gay community."

To reach their goals, health officials said they intend to radically change how the city approaches and funds HIV prevention programs. And departing from federal health officials' moves to fund only HIV prevention for positives,



DPH HIV prevention chief Steven Tierney

local officials will maintain targeting negative people as a priority.

"Are we opposed to testing? Absolutely not. We feel it is important for people to know their status and have access to care," said Israel Nieves-Rivera, an HPPC co-chair. "The elimination of HIV prevention for high-risk negatives we are opposed to."

Officials with the AIDS Office have already begun to meet with leaders of the 56 agencies working on HIV prevention and will begin meeting with community members later this month to outline the new plan and receive feedback. By fall, the AIDS Office will seek new proposals for how best to redirect HIV prevention funds.

"Yeah, it is a radical departure from our last plan," developed in 2000, said Tierney. "With funding expected to — at our most optimistic — stay flat, and with increased administrative costs, it means a cut in direct services. My mission is to see that as much money goes to direct services and make sure they are services people

want and people will participate in."

The title of the first meeting, held on April 30, indicates just how monumental a shift HIV prevention leaders want to see in how agencies address the city's HIV epidemic. Called "Strategic Collaborations and Mergers: Survival Strategies for a New Economy" the workshop, attended by 19 people from nine agencies, was intended as a wake-up call that with money for AIDS drying up it is time to depart with old measures that no longer work.


"It wouldn't mean for me shutting down agencies. It means for me an opportunity for people to look at how they do their work," explained Tierney. "Many

of these agencies are celebrating their 25 years of doing business. Maybe it is time to see if there are ways some can collaborate on best practices and share them with each other."

Tierney pointed to the fact that many gay men in their 20s in the Castro are no longer interested in certain activities and AIDS agencies need to retool their approaches and events.

"We need to ask them what they want and take a look at doing joint programs where two people work in the Castro or others go to South of Market or to the Polk and work with young men there," he said. "There are a lot of tried and true programs that people don't participate in anymore. What you are seeing in this plan is an acknowledgment that the status quo is not good enough." ▼

The entire HIV prevention plan can be found at <http://www.dph.sf.ca.us/HIVPreVPlan/page2.htm>.



So keep undetectable as your treatment goal, even if previous regimens have failed you.

If you are treatment experienced, with FUZEON in your regimen you may still get to undetectable.


In fact, compared to HIV treatment regimens without FUZEON, having FUZEON in your combination regimen means you may:

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- get twice the increase in T cells

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So tell your doctor you don't want to accept a detectable viral load. Tell your doctor you're ready to fight in a completely different way—with FUZEON.

To find out more about FUZEON and how it works, visit www.FUZEON.com or call the FUZEON Answer Center at 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

 **FUZEON.**
enfuvirtide

Indication: FUZEON (enfuvirtide) is used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines (treatment-experienced) and have detectable viral loads even though they are taking anti-HIV medicines. This indication is based on viral loads and CD4 (T-cell) counts in studies of FUZEON that lasted 24 weeks. Patients in the studies were treatment-experienced adults, and many of them had advanced HIV disease. There are no studies of FUZEON in patients who haven't taken anti-HIV medicines. There are no results from studies looking at the effect of FUZEON on the progression of HIV disease.

Important Safety Information

Injection Site Reactions (ISRs): ISRs are the most common side effect seen with FUZEON use. Almost all people taking FUZEON (98%) get injection site reactions. 3% of patients quit taking FUZEON because of ISRs. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Signs/symptoms may include pain and discomfort, hardened skin, redness, bumps, itching and swelling. 9% of patients had ISRs that required them to take over-the-counter pain medicine or limit their usual activities.

Pneumonia: Patients taking FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not taking FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing. Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they have a low number of CD4 cells, have a high viral load, use intravenous (injected into the vein) drugs, smoke or have had lung disease in the past.

Allergic reactions: Allergic reactions have been seen with FUZEON and can occur if FUZEON is restarted. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include rash, fever, nausea and vomiting, chills, shaking, low blood pressure and increased liver enzymes. Other adverse events that may be an immune response and have been reported in patients taking FUZEON include serious immune system reactions, severe breathing difficulties, inflammation of the kidney and Guillain-Barre syndrome.

Other Side Effects: The side effects seen most often in patients taking FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines were diarrhea (26.8%), nausea (20.1%) and fatigue (16.1%). These side effects were seen less often than in patients taking anti-HIV medicines without FUZEON: diarrhea (33.5%), nausea (23.7%) and fatigue (17.4%). This list of side effects is not complete because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Report any new or worsening symptoms to your healthcare provider.



TRIMERIS

FUZEON® is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. FUZEON does not prevent the transmission of HIV. For additional details on FUZEON, please see the accompanying summary of complete product information.

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PATIENT INFORMATION

FUZEON® (FEW-zee-on)

Generic Name: enfuvirtide (en-FEW-ver-tide) for Injection

This leaflet contains important information for patients and their caregivers about FUZEON. Please read this leaflet and FUZEON *Injection Instructions* carefully before you start using FUZEON. Always read the section "Changes since the last version of this leaflet" at the end of this leaflet each time you get your FUZEON prescription refilled. There may be important new information about the use of FUZEON.

This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical conditions or treatment.

What is FUZEON?

FUZEON is a medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) fusion inhibitor. FUZEON is always used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat adults and children aged 6 years and older with HIV infection. FUZEON is not used by itself to treat HIV infection.

FUZEON blocks HIV's ability to infect healthy CD4 cells. When used with other anti-HIV medicines, FUZEON can reduce the amount of HIV in the blood and increase the number of CD4 cells. This may keep your immune system healthy, so it can help fight infection.

FUZEON does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. The long-term effects of FUZEON are not known at this time. People taking FUZEON may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that can happen with HIV infection. **For these reasons, it is very important that you remain under the care of your healthcare provider while taking FUZEON.**

Does FUZEON lower the chance of passing HIV to other people?

FUZEON does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through unprotected sex, sharing needles or being exposed to your blood. For your own health and the health of others, it is important to continue to practice safer sex. Use a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood. Never use or share dirty needles. Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about safer sex or how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

Who should not use FUZEON?

Do not use FUZEON if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in FUZEON. See the end of this leaflet for a list of ingredients in FUZEON.

Tell your healthcare provider:

If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. We do not know if FUZEON can harm your unborn child. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if FUZEON is right for you. If you use FUZEON while you are pregnant, talk with your healthcare provider about how you can be in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.

If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if FUZEON can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby.

about all your medical conditions.

about all the medicines you use, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins and herbal supplements. FUZEON has not been tested with all medicines.

How should I use FUZEON?

Before you use FUZEON, make sure you understand all of the information in this leaflet and the FUZEON *Injection Instructions* that come with your medicine. You or your caregiver should be trained by a healthcare provider before injecting it. If you do not understand all the information, talk with your healthcare provider about your questions or concerns.

Use FUZEON with other anti-HIV medicines. **Do not use FUZEON as your only anti-HIV medicine.**

FUZEON must be injected. FUZEON does not work if it is swallowed.

Do not mix other medicines in the same syringe with FUZEON.

FUZEON is given under the skin by injection (a "shot") in the upper arm, upper leg or abdomen two times a day. See the FUZEON *Injection Instructions* that come with your medicine for step-by-step instructions about how to inject FUZEON.

Do not inject FUZEON in the same area as you did the time before. Do not inject FUZEON into the following areas: around the navel (belly button), scar tissue, a bruise or a mole, or where there is an injection site reaction.

Do not inject FUZEON if you see particles floating in the FUZEON vial after you mix it.

You can use FUZEON whether you have eaten or not. Food does not affect FUZEON. However, you must keep taking your other medicines the way you did before.

Do not change your dose or stop taking FUZEON without first talking with your healthcare provider.

See your healthcare provider regularly while using FUZEON.

When your FUZEON supply runs low, be sure to have it refilled. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if your medicine is stopped for even a short time. If you miss or skip doses of FUZEON, HIV may develop resistance to FUZEON and become harder to treat.

If you miss a dose of FUZEON, take the missed dose as soon as you can and then take your next dose as scheduled. If you have missed a dose of FUZEON and it is close to the time when you are supposed to take your next dose, wait and take the next dose as regularly scheduled. Do not take two doses of FUZEON at the same time.

Rx ONLY

If you take too much FUZEON, call your healthcare provider right away. We do not know what can happen if you take too much FUZEON. You will be watched very carefully if you take too much FUZEON.

It is important that you put your used syringes into a special sharps container after injecting FUZEON. Your healthcare provider will give you more instructions about the safe disposal of your used syringes. **Do not put them in a trash can.**

If you do not have a sharps container, call your healthcare provider or pharmacist to get one before using FUZEON.

Can FUZEON be used with other medicines?

FUZEON does not affect other anti-HIV medicines or the medicine rifampin (also known as rifampicin and manufactured under the brand names Rifadin® and Rimactane®). You can take FUZEON at the same times or at different times than your other anti-HIV medicines.

What should I avoid while using FUZEON?

Avoid doing anything that can spread HIV infection, since FUZEON does not stop you from passing the HIV infection to others.

Do not share needles or other injection equipment.

Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes or razor blades.

Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier method to reduce the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions or blood.

Do not drive or operate heavy machinery if FUZEON makes you feel dizzy.

What are the possible side effects of FUZEON?**Injection site reactions**

FUZEON causes injection site reactions. Almost all people get injection site reactions with FUZEON. Reactions are usually mild to moderate but occasionally may be severe. Reactions on the skin where FUZEON is injected include:

- itching
- swelling
- redness
- pain or tenderness
- hardened skin
- bumps

These reactions generally happen within the first week of FUZEON treatment and usually happen again as you keep using FUZEON. A reaction at one skin injection site usually lasts for less than 7 days.

Injection site reactions may be worse when injections are given again in the same place on the body or when the injection is given deeper than it should be (for example, into the muscle).

If you are worried about the reaction you are having, call your healthcare provider to help you decide if you need medical care. **If the injection site reaction you are having is severe, call your healthcare provider right away.** If you have an injection site reaction, you can discuss with your healthcare provider ways to help the symptoms.

An injection site can get infected. To lower your chances of getting an injection site infection, it is important to follow the FUZEON *Injection Instructions* that come with your medicine. **Call your healthcare provider right away if there are signs of infection at the injection site such as oozing, increasing heat, swelling, redness or pain.**

Pneumonia

Patients with HIV get bacterial pneumonia more often than patients without HIV. In clinical trials, patients taking FUZEON with other HIV medicines got bacterial pneumonia more often than patients not receiving FUZEON. It is unclear if this was related to the use of FUZEON. **You should contact your healthcare provider right away if you have a cough, fever or trouble breathing.** Patients are more likely to get bacterial pneumonia if they had a low number of CD4 cells, increased amount of HIV in the blood, intravenous (injected into the vein) drug use, smoking or had experienced lung disease in the past. It is unclear if pneumonia is related to FUZEON.

Allergic reactions

FUZEON can cause serious allergic reactions. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction with FUZEON can include:

- trouble breathing
- fever with vomiting and a skin rash
- blood in your urine
- swelling of your feet

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of these symptoms.

Other side effects

The following side effects were seen more often in patients using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines than in patients not using FUZEON with their other anti-HIV medicines:

- pain and numbness in feet or legs
- loss of sleep
- depression
- decreased appetite
- weakness or loss of strength
- muscle pain
- constipation
- pancreas problems

These are not all the side effects of FUZEON. The list of side effects with FUZEON is not complete at this time because FUZEON is still being studied.

If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. **Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider.** Your healthcare provider will tell you what to do and may be able to help you with these side effects.

How is FUZEON stored?

FUZEON vials not mixed with sterile water can be stored at room temperature (59° to 86° F). FUZEON should be refrigerated if it cannot be stored at room temperature. The Sterile Water for Injection (diluent) may be stored at room temperature (59° to 86° F).

After FUZEON has been mixed with the sterile water, the vial can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours.

Do not use FUZEON or sterile water after the expiration date on the vials. Do not keep FUZEON that is out of date or that you no longer need.

General information about the safe and effective use of FUZEON

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use FUZEON for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give FUZEON to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. **Keep FUZEON and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about FUZEON. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or see the section, "Where can I get more information about FUZEON?" in this leaflet. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about FUZEON that is written for healthcare professionals.

What are the ingredients in FUZEON?

Active Ingredients: enfuvirtide

Inactive Ingredients: Mannitol, sodium carbonate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid.

FUZEON comes packaged as a convenience kit containing the following:

- 60 vials of FUZEON (2 cartons of 30 each)
- 60 vials of Sterile Water for Injection (2 cartons of 30 each)
- syringes for mixing (3 mL/cc)
- syringes for injecting (1 mL/cc)
- alcohol pads
- injection instructions

Call your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you need more supplies.

Where can I get more information about FUZEON?

The best source for more information about FUZEON is your healthcare provider. More information about FUZEON is located at www.fuzeon.com and 1-877-4 FUZEON (1-877-438-9366).

Changes since the last version of this leaflet

This is the first version of this leaflet; it was written in March 2003. Please check this section when your medicine is refilled for any important new information about FUZEON.

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CAREERS

Gay nurse gives intensive care

by Eric Ganther

Who: Andreas Fischer
What: Intensive care unit nurse
Where: UCSF Parnassus Campus

Walt Whitman was America's first well-known queer nurse. He tended to wounded and dying boys during the Civil War and shared his experiences in poetry. In the dying years of AIDS, many in the queer community followed Whitman's lead and became informal nurses – caring for loved ones and being initiated into the art of dying. Today, queer nurses not only take care of other people, they take care of themselves – nursing is a booming field with relatively high wages, highly flexible hours, job security, and a wide variety of interesting career paths. This week I interview an heir to Whitman's other legacy – Andreas Fischer: gay man, motorcycle daddy, and ICU nurse.

Do you have to like blood to be a nurse?

You don't have to like it, but you're going to encounter it. There's no way around it. Patients are going to bleed. You are going to draw blood. Other people have problems with poop or vomit because things that are foul can trigger a reaction. But when a patient hasn't had a bowel movement in a week, and they're experiencing tremendous pain because of the cramps and gas pains, nurses get very excited about poop.

Why did you decide to become a nurse?

I switched careers about two years ago. I was in sales where my job was about producing the numbers, and I didn't want to risk my customer base by coming out. What I like about nursing is that being gay isn't an issue.

And when I looked at a medical career, I looked at the doctor route and the nurse route, and the nurse was a better fit for me.

What does an ICU nurse do?

We take care of critically ill patients. Patients are critically ill because of a disease process, when they have had major surgery and they are recovering, or when they are at the end of their life. Many of our patients are ventilated (a respirator is breathing for them), sedated, and physically unstable. We work hard to help them recover from their surgery and to stabilize them medically to the point where they no longer require intensive care.

Is there a high demand for nurses now?

There's a huge demand around the world partly because the baby boom generation is beginning to retire. There is an increasing emphasis on health care issues for older adults. Another demand factor is that for hospital safety reasons, California recently enacted ratio laws that limit the number of patients a nurse can take care of. In ICU, for example, I cannot take care of more than two people at a time.

How much can a nurse expect to make?

Nursing is no longer an underpaid, overworked profession. If you're going to be a staff nurse at a hospital, you could expect to start at \$30 per hour plus benefits. As a nurse I can go anywhere in the country and have a job in 24 hours – that's job security.

Is it difficult when people die?

Death is one of those things that we all get to experience once (at least once) and it doesn't have to be a bad thing. Nurses look at what's important to people at the end of life. Usually this means: having major peace with God or whomever you consider your creator; having your family and friends with you, not being alone; and not having any pain. These are things we can do. It does get hard when someone dies. But, as a nurse, it's a chance to make a huge difference for a patient at the end of their life. And also to help make it a good transition for the family.

What are your hours like?

My hours are one of my favorite parts about this job. I work three 12-hour shifts, which means I have four days a week off.

How's being a nurse like the TV show ER?

It's like ER in that we see very similar situations, just not every five minutes – you don't run your entire shift. We see patients who bleed profusely, or are in intense pain, or delusional, withdrawing from alcohol or drugs. There are times when the patients are screaming and we are reacting as nurses to relieve their pain and discomfort and allow them to cope with the stress of being in an ICU or whatever setting they're in. It's a very controlled atmosphere. Nurses know when to react quickly and how to react. What you see on TV is people overreacting.

What would you recommend to someone interested in nursing?

I learned about nursing by volunteering in an emergency room for two years. It became a place to try out the career and learn about different aspects of nursing. So my advice would be to volunteer at any hospital or hospice.

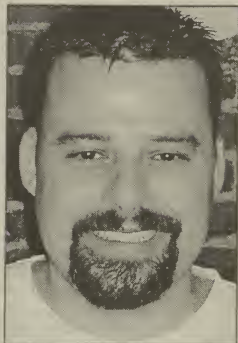
Tell us about the training.

Most schools in the Bay Area have some kind of nursing program. I got accepted into the master's entry program into nursing at UCSF. They take people with a bachelor's degree in an unrelated field and put them through a program where within one year you are qualified to sit for your RN license exam. And then you go directly into a two-year advanced practice degree, which will make you a nurse practitioner or a clinical nurse specialist.

Are there many male nurses where you work?

I hate that term! It implies gay! Why qualify it as male nurse? I'm a nurse. Nursing originally was done by men. Women started becoming nurses during the Crimean Wars [1855] when Florence Nightingale became famous.

Are there lots of queers in the



Andreas Fischer

field?

Because of the stereotypical gay male nurse, it's a little easier to be a nurse and be gay and open about it. The women who I work with don't care. The men who I work with don't care. It just doesn't matter.

Is there a link between you being gay and you wanting to be a nurse?

There certainly is the perception that men who are nurses are gay. I don't know if it's founded in truth or just the perception that men who work in professions that have been dominated by women must be gay, must be feminine, must be effeminate. As a gay man, I was very glad to be going into a profession where being gay is accepted. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.

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13 **NEGATIVE MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP: AN EVENING WITH TOM MOON** Thursday, May 13, 7-9pm @ 2128 15th St. Join us for an evening with psychotherapist and advice columnist Tom Moon. Tom will lead a discussion group on how HIV+ men can improve their emotional and sexual health.

14-15 **SOUL IN THE WOODS REQUIRED ORIENTATION:** Friday, May 14, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Office, 2128 15th St @ Market St This mandatory orientation features safety tips, meet and greet and yummy treats.

IN OUR PRIME: Saturday, May 15, 9am-3pm Men over 40, join us for an amazing day in the Presidio. Enjoy an outdoor hike and share your experiences as HIV+ and HIV+ men. Rain or shine, we'll provide the gear. Friday night orientation required.

18 **HEART, MIND, BODY, SPIRIT: OUR BODIES, OUR TEMPLES,** Tuesday, May 18, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market Come to this celebration of the body workshop and explore new ways to nourish, nurture and pleasure your body. Special invited guests.

21 **QUEER MOVIE NIGHT "UNDER ONE ROOF"** Friday, May 21, 7-9pm at 539 Castro St What happens when your Caucasian boyfriend moves in with you and your Asian American family? Come find out in this heartfelt and zany comedy. Discussion and social time following the film.

25 **HEART, MIND, BODY, SPIRIT: SPIRITUALITY AND FELLOWSHIP,** Tuesday, May 25 7pm @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market As gay men, spirituality and religion may be a difficult subject. But more and more we are taking back places of faith for our own. Come hear presenters and explore with other queer guys where we can find healthy spiritual practice and fellowship.

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Serosorting

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feel safe in allowing us to do and the relationship has an enormous obstacle there. It seems unnecessary when there are so many positive men to date."

Coolley and Joseph are not alone in opting to only swim in a dating pool with other HIV-positive men. Nor are positive men the only ones serosorting. Negative men are also wading into a world where they only seek out other negative men.

George, a 33-year-old negative man who asked that his last name not be used, said after he moved to San Francisco 12 years ago he began to rethink dating positive men.

"Way back before I had moved to San Francisco I dated any guy. Positive or negative it didn't matter," wrote George in an e-mail response to questions after he posted an ad on craigslist.org. "I was actually in a relationship with an HIV-positive guy for almost three years when I was in college. Yes, it was different and difficult at times and love is not status prejudice."

But in San Francisco, George said he began noticing that there were positive guys he could not tell had HIV and tended to not disclose their status.

"I had to relearn my thinking on the situation and really learn how to trust people all over again. I never really was focused on the

issue until I noticed a rise in other sexually transmitted diseases and that led me to believe that people were having riskier sex and it was breeding stronger strains of STDs," he said. "What tends to turn me off are the ones who don't tell you [they are positive] but you see signs and flashing lights that they are untruthful of their situation; or most are not aware and don't care."

Now that he is in a four-year relationship where he is allowed to play on the side, he said it is important to put in his online posts that he is only seeking other negative guys. He doesn't label it serosorting, a term he had never heard until contacted for this story.

"My partner and I have times where we give permission to indulge our desires and it is amicable. I state that I prefer 'NEG' guys on the basis that there may be the uncontrolled 'chemistry' there that men sometimes have," explained George. "I don't wish to imply that there may be a good chance for sex, but I also don't discount it either. I just wish to try and maintain a sense of 'safety' if it does end in that way."

Opting to serosort

According to interviews with over a dozen gay men, city health officials, and AIDS outreach workers more and more negative and positive men in San Francisco are opting to serosort.

"It has been part of the discussion for a while. Lots of people I

have spoken to, both positive and negative, are choosing their partners based on HIV status," said Will Bland, director of community programs at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "For some negative men it is a strategy that has served them well. I hear that as well with positive men who don't want to infect someone."

Steven Gibson, the director of Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, sees serosorting as a natural reaction to HIV rates.

"As a gay man, to me it's kind of a 'duh.' Of course this is going to happen. I think a lot of public health messages have been put out there that say 'Assume everyone is positive.' But it is not true, not everyone is positive," said Gibson.

In San Francisco it is estimated that 33 percent of gay men are positive, leaving 67 percent negative.

"Inevitably, people are going to make decisions based on serostatus," said Gibson, who is negative and currently dating someone of the same serostatus, though he has dated positive men.

Chris Owen, Stop AIDS' associate program director, said since his agency started Positive Force, a program specifically designed for positive men, it has noted a decrease in the last three years in HIV-positive men stating they are having unsafe sex with someone of an unknown serostatus.

"It is a little bit of both serosorting and using condoms," Owen said of the trend.

With the growth of the Internet as a means for guys to meet sexual partners and boyfriends, serosorting has become almost an online norm. From specific Web sites that cater solely to positive men, or tell users to assume everyone there is positive to postings on craigslist where men state in their ads "HIV-negative you be too," men can enter their own serosorted cyberspace with the click of a mouse.

"The Internet is the great equalizer. It is where more HIV-positive people are coming out about their status. They don't have to deal with rejection," said Owen. "The Internet is one of the main factors for serosorting."

Terje Anderson, the executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, remarked at a local AIDS conference last month, "I am waiting for someone to found an HIV-positive dating service. It is the right time for it because that is what people are doing out there."

Researchers have also noted the progression toward serosorting. At the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections in 2003, a study by the Gladstone Institute of Virology and Immunology in San Francisco reported that the relatively stable

HIV incidence in certain cities, despite increased reports of unprotected sexual acts, was due to serosorting, wrote Dr. Stephen Taylor of the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom, in a report on Medscape.com.

New trend?

In January of this year, Willi McFarland, co-chief of the San Francisco AIDS Office's HIV/AIDS Statistics and Epidemiology section, told members of the HIV Prevention Planning Council that city health officials have observed an increase in serosorting.

"Positive men are less likely to engage in [unprotected anal sex] with people of unknown serostatus and more likely to have [unprotected anal sex] with other positive men, and negative men are less likely to engage in [unprotected anal sex] with known positive men," McFarland said, according to minutes of the meeting. "There has been a decrease in the number of negative people reporting they knowingly engaged in sexual risk behavior with men they knew to be positive."

At this year's retrovirus conference, McFarland and other San Francisco researchers presented a study entitled "Increases in 'Serosorting' May Prevent Further Expansion of the HIV Epidemic among MSM in San Francisco." They noted that HIV serosorting is one strategy that could reduce HIV transmission on an individual and community level.

Using data collected from 15,059 gay and bi men in San Francisco who sought anonymous HIV testing from 1998 to 2002, the researchers found the proportion of men who have sex with men (MSM) reporting sex with a known HIV-positive partner within the previous 12 months declined steadily from 1998 to 2002. They found a concurrent decrease in both reported unprotected oral and anal sex with a known HIV-positive partner.

The researchers concluded that HIV-negative men are increasingly serosorting, and that the decrease in unprotected oral and anal sex with a known HIV-positive partner suggests that condoms are being used increasingly in serodiscordant partnerships.

"Our findings provide cautious optimism that continuing rises in overall unprotected sex and sexually transmitted diseases observed in recent years among San Francisco's MSM population may not necessarily translate into concurrent increases in HIV incidence," they wrote.

In a separate study presented at the same conference looking at the city's rising rates of syphilis, McFarland and other researchers found that HIV rates did not rise along with the other STD as health officials had feared. With 65 percent of the men with syphilis in 2002 also being HIV-positive, the assumption is those men are serosorting.

"The hypothesis that could explain this is the sexual network of people with HIV is separate from people without HIV," McFarland said in an interview. "I think these things [serosorting] are happening and seeing the data shows it dampened what could have been an explosion in HIV."

Serosorting also has caught the eye of federal health officials who are looking to see if it could control the spread of HIV. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention focuses its efforts on positive men, the trend is only likely to grow as more positive men enter the dating pool and are told it is up to them not to transmit HIV.

"From a scientific viewpoint, the CDC views serosorting as the best way to stop the spread of HIV," said Owen, who attended a state-sponsored conference last year in the East Bay where the trend was discussed.

With rapid HIV tests, Owen said the CDC officials at the meeting talked of using it at sex clubs to identify people who are positive and negative. In February, AHF officials ended a contract with the county health department to provide HIV testing at bathhouses after it was denied entry into most of them.

"Two guys come into the sex club and use the test, the guy who tests positive gets a red towel and the negative guy gets a blue towel. I am HIV-negative, and the guy who I was dating at the time was positive, so you are telling me he wears a red towel and I wear a blue towel?" Owen, who said he does not personally believe in serosorting, recalled thinking at the time. In Los Angeles this month, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation demanded it be allowed to use the rapid tests for patrons of the city's bathhouses.

During the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS March meeting, Dr. Mark Thrun, medical director for HIV prevention with the Denver Public Health Department, was asked about serosorting. According to minutes of the meeting, Thrun said, "Serosorting as a prevention model is theoretically a good model for reducing infectiousness, however in reality stigma prevents it from being a viable model for domestic prevention."

'Seroapartheid'?

Serosorting raises troubling questions not only about how it affects transmission of STDs other than HIV, but what the psychological and social impacts are of gay men creating a serodivide. Some liken it to a seroapartheid.

"We are segregating our own culture. It is terrible to have the positive club over here and the negative club over there. I think it is horrible," said Mike, 41, who has been positive since 1986 and asked that his last name not be used. "I am trying really, really hard not to make a rule I will only date or have sex with positive men. I think it should be equal. There shouldn't be any divisiveness in my own community."

As for all those online postings that say "negative seeking negative," Mike said, "It makes a guy like me feel isolated. It is hard as a gay man who is very healthy. I have not been on meds for two years but I still have the virus. Having HIV shouldn't preclude me as being a pariah from interacting with other people who are different from me."

George, who posts "seeking negative" ads, said he can understand the views of positive guys like Mike. But he doesn't view serosorting as segregation.

"Everyone has their own ideas, desires and choices in life. ... You can choose your clothes, food, TV shows to watch and who you have sex with, that is not segregation," he said. "That person who is seeking a 'NEG' guy to have sex with may in fact be thinking of 'unsafe' actions sexually as well and wants to keep their mind at ease. Kind of what got the 'POZ' guys in the situation they are in. ... That moment of poor judgment."

By creating a community norm that assumes everyone is positive, Gibson said people tend to respond differently once they find out a person's serostatus is different from their own.

"If I ask the question, 'Would

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William Owen, Jr., M.D.
Carl Stein, PA-C

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OBITUARIES

David C. Herrera

August 7, 1975 — May 10, 2003

I miss you on Sunday mornings reading obituaries over coffee. You were the best friend a funeral director could ever have. We were a great team, thank you for the profound experience. — Kellie G.

Patrick P. Maes

Patrick P. Maes, renaissance man, producer of many famed revue productions in Las Vegas and Reno, died at his



popular productions included the world renowned "Bottoms Up," a comedy review that was staged in true burlesque fashion with pretty women, handsome men, song, dance and bawdy humor.

home in San Francisco on May 1, 2004, after a brief illness. A native of Bustin, Kansas, Mr. Maes, 60, produced international shows that brought pleasure and laughter to his audience. One of his most

Now in its forty-fifth year, it stars his professional partner, Breck Wall.

Patrick began his business career with actor Breck Wall in Las Vegas, Nevada, 30 years ago. He moved to San Francisco in 1994 to be with Army roommate and friend of 37 years, his partner in life, Dr. Lawrence Bennett. He continued to commute between show sites in Reno and Las Vegas as new productions were formed.

Mr. Maes and Dr. Bennett spent their summers in Friday Harbor, Washington, where they entertained family and friends. They traveled extensively around the country and throughout the

world over several decades. Patrick was an avid gym goer, tennis player and gardener. He possessed charm, charisma and a magnetic personality that drew everyone to him immediately.

Mr. Maes is survived by his partner Dr. Lawrence Bennett, two sisters and their husbands, JoEllen and Larry Schroeder, Linda and Jerry Huff, and two brothers and a sister-in-law, Marilyn and Jim Maes, and Danny Maes, all currently residing in Kansas.

Donations in his memory may be sent to Send a Kid to Camp Foundation, 88 Kearny St., 12th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94108.

He had lung surgery and double bypass surgery during 2001 and due to extraordinary care from his doctors and nurses, especially Dr. Lisa Capalini, Dr. Denis Bouvier, and Dr. Leslie Campbell, survived another two years for us to share being together.

He is survived by his mother, Alma Balk Scally, one brother, Ronald J. Scally Sr., one nephew, RJ Jr., and a niece, Heather Mathews, all in Iowa. May he now rest in eternal peace and love. Any donations should be made to the AIDS Emergency Fund or Lung Association.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

David Reimer — man raised as 'gender experiment' — dies

by Zak Szymanski

David Reimer — the man who was born a boy but raised a girl, and whose story was told in the renowned biography *As Nature Made Him* — died May 4, apparently after committing suicide. He was 38.

Reimer struggled with depression for many years, according to those close to him. He lived relatively anonymously until the publication of his story, in which he revealed himself and his life in order to prevent other children from enduring a similar plight.

Mr. Reimer, born and baptized as Bruce, received a botched circumcision in 1966. On the advice of Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins University, he was completely castrated and raised as a girl.

For years, Money had asserted that gender was entirely the result of socialization, and baby Bruce gave him the perfect opportunity to test this theory, as the infant also had a twin brother against whom the child's female development could be measured. Money

used Reimer's story — known as the "Joan-John case" — to prove his theories, citing Mr. Reimer's success as a girl (renamed Brenda) in medical tests.

The gender experiment went on to affirm Money's expertise, and earned him accolades throughout the medical community. It also served as the basis for thousands of further surgeries upon infants whose genitals did not conform to what was considered "normal" for their birth sex.

But the true story of Mr. Reimer was revealed in 1997, when an article in the *Archives of Adolescent and Pediatric Medicine* documented how Mr. Reimer had been uncomfortable all through childhood and had returned to life as a male. The article shed light upon non-consensual sexual reassignment surgeries, and also uncovered the medical rivalries and politics that allowed the inaccurate reports about Mr. Reimer to continue.

According to Mr. Reimer's own story, in the 2000 release by John Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him*, "Brenda" was a social outcast from

the beginning, subject to mental and physical interventions to make her compatible with her re-assigned gender. After years of pain and turmoil, at the age of 14, Mr. Reimer learned the truth about himself, and underwent testosterone injections, a double mastectomy, and a phalloplasty for the reconstruction of a penis. He later married and raised three stepchildren in Winnipeg.

In the *Winnipeg Sun* this week, Mr. Reimer's mother, Janet Reimer, said she believed her son would still be alive had it not been for the "devastating gender study" that caused him so much pain.

"He managed to have so much courage," Janet Reimer told the *Sun*. "I think he felt he had no options. It just kept building up and building up."

She said Mr. Reimer recently slumped into a depression after losing his job and separating from his wife. He was also still grieving the death of his twin brother two years earlier, she said.

Mr. Reimer, said his mother, was "the most generous, loving soul that ever lived." ▼

Massachusetts

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that Massachusetts was right to let you marry even before you get to argue that your home state must recognize your lawful Massachusetts marriage," GLAD advised on its Web site. "Because of this extra hurdle you may have to surmount before the 1913 law is overturned or repealed, you should weigh your options carefully."

GLAD advises that until the 1913 law is set aside by the Legislature or overturned in the courts, marriage in Canada may be a better option for same-sex couples who don't live in Massachusetts.

For those gay couples who may have already married in San Francisco or another U.S. city, GLAD notes that Romney has instructed clerks not to issue a marriage license to any couple who have already received a license from another governmental body until and if that license is officially voided.

At press time, the state's capital and largest city, Boston, was still trying to determine how to deal with out-of-state couples.

Gary Sandison, an adviser to Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, told the *Bay Area Reporter* on Monday, May 10: "We don't know yet. Our attorney is looking at it right now."

Sandison is coordinating gay marriages at Boston City Hall. The city plans to add extra employees to handle the expected crowds. Sandison estimates that Boston can handle about 200 couples per day. Three of the seven couples who were among the original plaintiffs for the legal chal-

lenge that eventually resulted in the granting of gay marriage rights will be the first to be issued marriage applications when the clerk's office opens at 9 a.m. on Monday, May 17. Those three couples were chosen because they reside in Boston. Other couples will be issued numbers representing their place in line. Those who can't be accommodated on May 17 will be asked to return later in the week. Unlike San Francisco, there isn't a fear that the courts could soon stop gay marriages. Although there is a push for a state constitutional amendment to out-law gay marriages, the soonest it could be enacted is 2006.

Last week, Menino strongly hinted that he plans to defy Romney by welcoming out-of-state couples.

"It's about civil rights," Menino told the *Boston Globe*. "It's about showing that we don't discriminate in the city of Boston."

Menino blasted Romney for resurrecting the arcane 1913 law and told the *Globe* that the governor "wants to continue to throw up roadblocks."

"The decision has been made by the courts," the mayor explained. "Why continue to do end runs? It's the law. Let's do it right. Let's do it with some respect."

Waiting period

Under Menino's directive, about 20 city workers will wear "welcome" badges and be available to answer questions. The city will staff a marriage information booth and will print 3,000 brochures, which will include a letter of congratulations from the mayor and instructions on how to get married.

There is a three-day waiting period for marriages in Massachusetts, so the gay couples who apply for licenses on May 17 will have to come back later in the week to pick them up. The waiting period may be waived by a special order from a probate judge. The marriage must be then solemnized within 60 days by a justice of the peace or clergy member.

Across the Charles River from Boston, the liberal city of Cambridge plans to be the first to begin issuing licenses for same-sex couples. The clerk's office will open its doors at Cambridge City Hall at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 16. A ceremony with speeches by the mayor and City Council members will begin at 11. Marriage applications will be accepted at 12:01 a.m.

Cambridge City Clerk Margaret Drury told the *B.A.R.* that although her office will not ask for proof of residency, applicants will be asked on their application whether they currently reside or plan to reside in Massachusetts. Drury noted that out-of-staters who have no plans to move to Massachusetts will not be issued licenses.

The town clerk for Provincetown, Doug Johnstone, told the *B.A.R.* that the town's board of selectmen decided on Monday, May 10, that the clerk's office will not directly ask marriage applicants their residency status. Johnstone added that applicants will be asked to sign a general affirmation stating that they are qualified to marry in Massachusetts. Johnstone noted that one of the qualifications for marrying in Massa-

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Setting sail

by Jim Provenzano

Two years ago, Berkeley resident Ann P. Meredith skipped her two-woman sailing crew, Team Swordfish, to a silver medal in the boating competition at Sydney's Gay Games VII.

As part of the largest contingent in the first-time nautical competition at the Games (30 sailors), Meredith is one of many Bay Area LGBT sailing enthusiasts. She's been sailing in the Bay Area for four decades.

Along with being a celebrated photographer of lesbian cowgirls and women with AIDS, and a filmmaker who just completed a documentary about drag kings, Meredith's work and life coalesce in today's horrifying headlines.

Next week, her course is charted for no less a formidable port

than Washington, D.C.

Meredith has been invited to travel to the nation's capital by first lady Laura Bush, in recognition of her work as part of the Art in Embassies program.

One of Meredith's photographs, "Elena and Rosa at The White House Ellipse, 1988" from her 10-year series "Until That Last Breath! The Global Face of Women with HIV/AIDS 1987-1997," is a part of the Art in Embassies 40th anniversary of exhibits that have been shown at different embassies around the world.

Next week's occasion at the State Department with Mrs. Bush, and at a reception with Secretary of State Colin Powell attending, may prove to be either a nerve-racking experience or a watershed

interaction.

"Although I'm in direct conflict with the policies of the current administration," said Meredith, "I also believe that engagement from within can often lead to social and political change. So, I'm choosing to take advantage of this opportunity to speak directly to the first lady about the current need for helping abused women."

In addition to being a documentary photographer of women with HIV/AIDS, Meredith has also been deeply engaged in visualizing through her art the plight of women sexually abused and tortured by members of the U.S. armed forces.

This is a personal cause as well. Beginning in her childhood, Meredith herself was the victim of sexual, psychological, and mental abuse by military personnel.

In accounts that she said, "make Stephen King's books seem like mild-mannered reporting," Meredith said she and other children of military personnel were forced to undergo years long experiments at Sacramento's McClellan Air Force Base, and other bases in Europe.

This all occurred between 1954 and 1964 in Sacramento and Europe, with the consent of her mother and father while Meredith's family was stationed at McClellan and other bases.

"They used children of military families whose parents gave permission to test on their children," said Meredith. "The military tracked us over our lifetime, in controlled experiments. This activity is still happening."

'Forgotten Angels'

Such an experience may seem shocking, or even unbelievable, if it weren't for the newly released evidence of photographs and videos of U.S. soldiers committing torture and sexual abuse on Iraqi prisoners of war at Abu Ghraib prison, where Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard had committed similar acts.

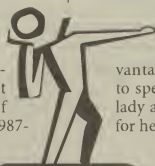
A scathing report released by the Red Cross on Monday claimed that up to 90 percent of Iraqis detained by coalition forces in the past year were arrested "by mistake." U.S. officers mistreated inmates at Abu Ghraib prison by keeping them naked in totally dark, empty cells, the report said. The first of possibly many courts martial involving U.S. soldiers began this week.

The *Army Times*, a newspaper read by a quarter-million troops worldwide, said responsibility for the abuse lies at the highest levels of the Pentagon, including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, whom the newspaper accused of being guilty of "professional negligence."

But while the current scandal has made headlines worldwide, more covert abuses like those Meredith suffered remain suppressed.

Upon hearing of the most recent cases, and seeing the images in the media, she was appalled, but more by a sense of familiarity. "What happened to me years ago 'is finally in the headlines,'" she said.

Meredith denounced Pentagon officials' statements that the November 2002 acts at Abu Ghraib prison were an isolated event. "When they say this is just an errant few, that's just lies," she said. The Red Cross report confirms abuse at several other cities in Iraq.



Sports Complex



Winged victory: One of several women in Ann P. Meredith's "Forgotten Angels: A Matter of Honor."

Only days after the Bush war cabinet met behind closed doors to view pictures and videos of the alleged crimes, Meredith will be in the nation's capital.

Unbeknownst to the Bush administration, Meredith's new project, "Forgotten Angels," a seven-year work, includes portraits and stories of women in the military who suffered antigay military discharges, and worse.

Along with Meredith's own experience, the artist's aunt was stationed in the Navy during the Korean "police action," and was a lesbian. Meredith said that through the witch-hunts of the McCarthy era, rather than suffer dishonorable discharges and being outed by the military, some of her aunt's friends committed suicide.

"Forgotten Angels" encompasses events that Meredith said have taken place on bases around the world from Iraq to Europe, and at bases in the U.S., including San Francisco's former Army base, the Presidio.

Yes, even the Presidio, and not just at Letterman Hospital's notorious animal testing labs. "I can't even go near some of those buildings," she said.

All the more reason for Meredith to be anxious at the prospect of possibly meeting members of the Bush administration and family. Meredith hopes to find a moment to simply share her story, and ask for a bit of empathy from possibly the most antigay, war-hungry, and civil rights-abusing administration in decades.

While daunted, Meredith is clear in her mission. "Finally, people are talking about it," she said. "Why wouldn't I talk about it?"

The State Department reception where Powell will speak is called "Art as Diplomacy: 21st Century Challenges," and will honor a just-published book that collects outstanding work previously exhibited at embassies worldwide.

Even if she doesn't get to speak with Powell or Mrs. Bush, Meredith said, "I have a crew cut and I'll be wearing a tuxedo. I think that'll be shocking enough."

Having also written letters to Senators Hillary Rodham-Clinton (D-New York), Edward Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), and Barbara Boxer (D-California), Meredith hopes for meetings and a chance to give testimony with the support of the Democratic Party politicians.

In deciding to accept the invitation from Mrs. Bush, Meredith said, "I've been a community arts activist for decades. I feel like I can do more good by going."

Still planning for the future, Meredith hopes to receive a grant to travel to Europe to photograph and interview other women survivors. She'll soon be traveling to Chicago to meet with Gay Games VII organizers, where she'll share her photographs and videos of past Gay Games events. Meredith also hopes to meet with the sailing coordinators for 2006's Games. With the wind at her back, let's wish her a safe journey. ▼

For more information, visit Ann P. Meredith's Web site: www.annpmeredith.com. For past columns, visit www.sportscomplex.org. To submit upcoming events, e-mail jimproven@yahoo.com.

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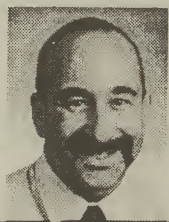
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2/02

Massachusetts

◀ previous page

chusetts is that the marriage would be valid in the applicant's home state.

Provincetown, a popular gay travel destination, also boasts a large number of year-round gay residents. One hundred couples are already scheduled to get marriage applications on Monday, May 17. The town only issued 30 marriage applications all of last year.

"It's exciting," Johnstone said. "It's great. We're not complaining."

Northampton, a western Massachusetts town with a large gay population, plans to welcome gay couples on Monday with balloons and flowers. Its town clerk, Wendy Mazza, told the *B.A.R.* that her office has no choice but to enforce a prohibition disallowing out-of-state gay couples from marrying. The details of how Northampton would enforce that law were being worked out this week. ▼

For detailed up-to-date information on gay marriage in Massachusetts, visit GLAD's Web site: www.glad.org.

CLASSIFIEDS

Serosorting

◀ page 16

you go down on a guy and suck that guy without a condom if you didn't know his status? most people would immediately say yes. If I told you he was negative, most people would say yes," said Gibson. "If I told you he was positive, most people have a pause. It is not an immediate response of yes."

What is needed, said Gibson, is that the community must work on a collective message to cross the serodivide. It is not enough to tell people to disclose their status, which most people don't like to do, said Gibson. Beyond disclosure, people need to think about what is going to be different by knowing the other person is positive, said Gibson.

"If I am a negative guy and he tells me he is positive, what am I going to do with that info? What type of sex will I have with that guy?" Gibson said people need to ask themselves.

While NAPWA's Anderson supports individuals choosing to serosort, he said at the conference he opposes any federal policies meant to foist it on positive men.

"A prevention strategy based on serostatus apartheid will not work," he said. "We accept the fact someone who is HIV-negative will not always use a condom. Yet the expectation is from the second you test positive you will never, ever have unsafe sex for the rest of your life."

Instead of dividing gay men by serostatus, what is needed, Anderson said, is a frank discussion about shared responsibility, that it is up to both negative and positive men to protect each other.

"We don't talk about what is going on with negative people, we only talk about positive people. We are doing all this work with positive people, so they [negative people] don't have to worry about it. Everyone has the responsibility to protect themselves and protect their partners," he said.

A positive man and a negative man can be together, but they are never told that, said Anderson.

"We haven't produced interventions that look at that magic moment when an HIV-negative and an HIV-positive person come together," he said.

Owen, with Stop AIDS, said he can understand serosorting as a concept of not transmitting HIV

to another person. But he does not want to see the government adopting serosorting as a prevention message.

"The government can't tell me who I can love, whether it's a gay man or another positive man. I have no problem having sex with an HIV-positive individual," he said. "In an abstract way, [serosorting] makes sense as one of those 'great ideas,' but politically, it is not going to work. It's too stigmatizing of HIV-positives."

Openly gay Supervisor Bevan Dufty, 49, single and negative, said he recently experienced what it is like to be on the wrong side of the serodivide. While he wouldn't have any reservations about dating a guy who is positive, he believes someone he went out with did serosort him out as a potential mate.

"I went on a prospective break-fast date with someone. He disclosed two partners of his had passed away. He probably realized I was negative because he didn't call me back," said Dufty.

He said he also saw the reverse happen to a close friend of his who is positive. After introducing his friend to someone with whom he seemed to hit it off, Dufty noted once the individual learned his friend was positive, he pulled back.

"He stopped and said to my friend, 'We should only be friends,'" recalled Dufty. "I definitely felt his being negative was a factor."

Though Dufty added that he is not necessarily opposed to serosorting.

"Relationships are about choice. I respect that and understand dating somebody who is also positive takes issues off the table."

At the same time, he said he knows many couples who are serodiscordant and in long-term, passionate relationships. He believes the chemistry between two people can rise above HIV status.

"There is a lot of dating and sex in the community. There are a lot of bumps in the night and a lot of bruising at that level," he said. "I understand a negative guy is fearful of sleeping with a positive guy, but love can transcend a lot of obstacles." ▼

Next week: A discussion with serodiscordant couples and health officials' concerns with serosorting.

Pete Knight

◀ page 5

so that people could see what motivated people behind the initiative," Marshall added.

Kate Kendall, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, told the B.A.R. that Mr. Knight left "a sad legacy."

"In some ways it's the death of a nemesis, but my first thought was of David Knight."

It was Kendall and Marshall who contacted David Knight several years ago and talked with him about the No on 22 campaign. In late 1999, David Knight wrote an op-ed piece in the *Times*, opposing his father's ballot measure, and describing how his father rejected him when he came out of the closet.

"It was a difficult decision," Marshall said of the decision to reach out to David Knight. "We were intruding on the Knight family. But that initiative was about intruding in all of our families."

Michael Goldstein, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, said he hoped Mr. Knight's death "will free those individuals on the conservative right

who consider themselves fair-minded to embrace the basic equal rights tenets found in both our state and national constitutions."

Laura Spanjian, co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, said, "It's kind of sad to see him gone."

"While I fervently disagree with his views on gay marriage, I think his initiative in 2000 paved the way for today's successes" by bringing the community together, she said.

Leno noted that Mr. Knight several weeks ago told an Equality California staff member and a Sacramento reporter that while he did not support same-sex marriage, he would support something short of marriage.

"Though he said domestic partnerships would be suitable, that's a significant shift," Leno said, adding he offered Mr. Knight's family his condolences.

Mr. Knight's funeral was scheduled for today (Thursday, May 13). In addition to his son, David, Mr. Knight is survived by his wife, Gail; two other sons; four stepchildren; and 15 grandchildren. ▼

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541181

In the Matter of the Application of Scott Michael Nelson for Change of Name. The applicant of Scott Michael Nelson for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Scott Michael Nelson has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Scott Michael Nelson Windels. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of June at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 22, 29 MAY 6, 13 20004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275344-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Kasparian Realty & Insurance 2025 Taraval Street San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Varant Kasparian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 06-01-91. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-16-04.

APR. 22, 29 MAY 6, 13 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275217-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: McGuire Mortgage 2001 Lombard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a joint venture signed James R. Panepinto. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-09-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-09-04.

APR. 22, 29 MAY 6, 13 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274909-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Thai Angel Cuisine 1968 Lombard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Cynthia Wong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-30-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-30-04.

APR. 22, 29 MAY 6, 13 2004



STATEMENT FILE A-0275370-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bangkok Noodles & Thai B.B.Q. 110 Powell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Somrak Loui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-19-04.

APR. 22, 29 MAY 6, 13 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275431-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cable Rite 3221 20th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability corporation signed Anthony Zabit. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-20-04.

APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275463-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Frisco SS Apparel 3016 26th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Aldo DiGiulio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-21-04.

APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541250

In the Matter of the Application of Zachary Montague Cohen for Change of Name. The application of Zachary Montague Cohen for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Zachary Montague Cohen has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Zach Cohen Winkler. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of May at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275531-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Saleema International Salon 2418 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Vincent A. Jones. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-23-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-23-04.

APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275192-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Fuchno 3075 17th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Vlad Cood. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 04-08-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-08-04.

APR. 29 MAY 6, 13, 20 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are Citizen Cupcake 1 LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 2 Stockton St., 3rd Fl. San Francisco, Ca. 94108. Type of License applied for:

41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE - EATING PLACE

APR. 29 MAY 6, 13 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275559-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cottonland 2306 28th Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Samuel Chien. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-26-04.

MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275431-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Torno Rosso 155 Stewart St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a limited partnership signed Charles H. Pratt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04-20-04.

MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

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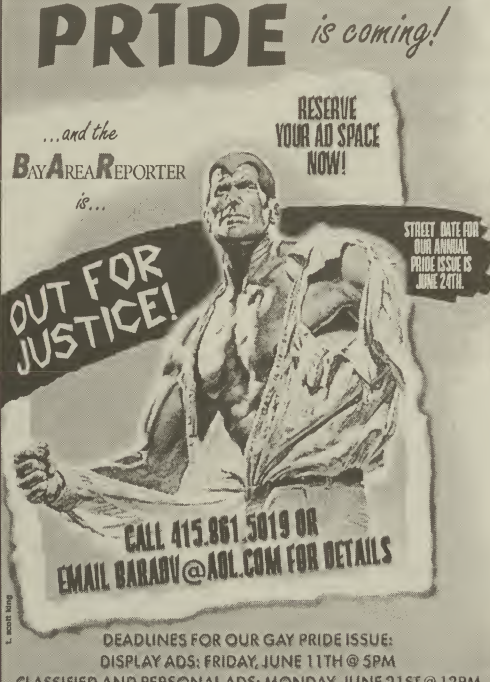
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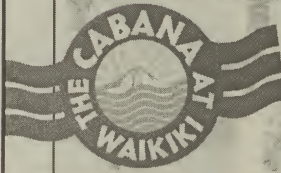
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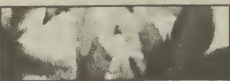
LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0275523-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: AIDS Housing Alliance-SF 427 South
Van Ness San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This
business is conducted by a corporation
signed Brian Basinger. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 01-29-04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 04-23-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275582-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Focalpoint Design Group 121 Bosworth
St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business
is conducted by a general partnership
signed Brian Dittmar. The registrant(s) com-
menced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
04-27-04. The statement was filed with the
City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on
04-27-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275687-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Kamei Houseware & Restaurant Sup-
plies 525 Clement St. San Francisco, Ca.
94118. This business is conducted by a cor-
poration signed Hung V. Tran. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on n/a. The statement was
filed with the City and County of San Fran-
cisco, Ca. on 04-29-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275689-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Kamei Houseware & Restaurant Sup-
plies 547 Clement St. San Francisco, Ca.
94118. This business is conducted by a cor-
poration signed Hung V. Tran. The regis-
trant(s) commenced to transact business
under the above listed fictitious business
name or names on n/a. The statement was
filed with the City and County of San Fran-
cisco, Ca. on 04-29-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004



**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541319**
In the Matter of the Application of Lewie
Alan Gillian for Change of Name. The ap-
plication of Lewie Alan Gillian for change
of name, having been filed in Court, and it
appearing from said application that Lewie
Alan Gillian has filed an application
proposing that his/her name be changed to
Lewie Alan Gillian. Now therefore, it is here-
by ordered and directed, that all persons in-
terested in said matter do appear before
this Court in Department 218 on the 01st
day of July at 9:00am of said day to show
cause why the application for change of
name should not be granted.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

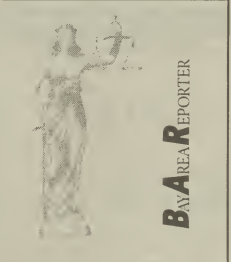
STATEMENT FILE A-0275653-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: ECDI Int'l (Eledyns Cons & Dev.) 435
Broadway St. San Francisco, Ca. 94133.
This business is conducted by an individual
signed Leonardo S. Cuevas. The registrant(s)
commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 04-28-04. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco,
Ca. on 04-28-04.
MAY 6, 13, 20, 27 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0275803-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Club Hong Kong 517 Clement St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is con-
ducted by an individual signed Jennings
Louie Lew. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on 05-01-
04. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-
05-04.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

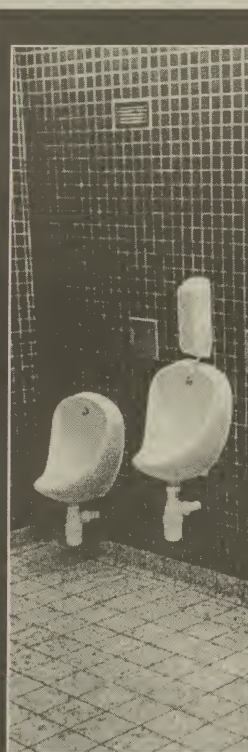
STATEMENT FILE A-0275839-00
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Bluestone Landscapes 203 Caselli St.
San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is
conducted by an individual signed Steve
Coughran. The registrant(s) commenced to
transact business under the above listed
fictitious business name or names on n/a. The
statement was filed with the City and Coun-
ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 05-06-04.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541331**
In the Matter of the Application of Chayne
Lowell Rogers for Change of Name. The ap-
plication of Chayne Lowell Rogers for
change of name, having been filed in Court,
and it appearing from said application that
Chayne Lowell Rogers has filed an applica-
tion proposing that his/her name be
changed to Jason Chaz Draven. Now there-
fore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that
all persons interested in said matter do ap-
pear before this Court in Department 218
on the 8th day of July at 9:00am of said
day to show cause why the application for
change of name should not be granted.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-
CISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541330**
In the Matter of the Application of John
Evensen Hall for Change of Name. The ap-
plication of John Evensen Hall for change
of name, having been filed in Court, and it
appearing from said application that John
Evensen Hall has filed an application
proposing that his/her name be changed to
Rebecca Lynne Hall. Now therefore, it is
hereby ordered and directed, that all per-
sons interested in said matter do appear be-
fore this Court in Department 218 on the
13th day of July at 9:00am of said day to
show cause why the application for change
of name should not be granted.
MAY 13, 20, 27 JUNE 3 2004



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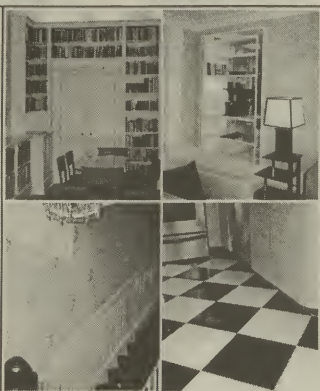


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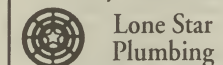
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(Okay, maybe we're still learning).

Okay. We know we've had an image problem in the GLBT community. (That old boycott pretty much tipped us off).

And we'll admit we were a little bit stubborn about even admitting there was a problem. That's why we want to talk to you. After all, a lot of things have changed since the '70s. Including our company.

In fact, we began addressing some important issues way back in 1978.

That's when we adopted an inclusive nondiscrimination policy that recognized the rights of GLBT applicants and employees. We took another important step forward in 1988 and provided corporate support to important GLBT community groups. Today, we're proud to back the efforts of the HRC, GLAAD, GPAC and numerous AIDS organizations. And we've continued our efforts to be not only a better corporate citizen, but a better place to work as well. More than 10 years ago, we created our Lesbian and Gay Employee Resource council (LAGER) to provide an employee support network and regularly advise our senior management. We even made history

in 1995, when Coors became the first major brewery in America to offer same-sex partner health benefits.

Many people have responded positively to these efforts. In 2001, we received the Colorado Human Rights Campaign Award. And we just received the highest score possible from the Human Rights Campaign—a perfect 100. So, while we're not perfect, we're clearly working hard to be a better company.

In other words, we got your message.

Now, do we hope that these changes will help persuade you to start enjoying our products?

Of course we do.

But regardless of how many minds we change about Coors, we're going to continue the GLBT-friendly policies and programs we have in place, and look for new ways to ensure an inclusive, comfortable workplace for all of our employees. Just because it's the right thing to do. **Thanks for listening.**

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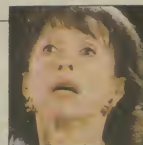
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Confirmed: truth stranger than fiction
'Screw' publisher, Barry Bonds' ball, sex
 past 65, surviving incest in 2004 DocFest.
page 29

'Girlz' gone wild
 Lesbian Karen Williams
 in *'Funny Girlz.'*
page 36



A diva played by Rita
 Moreno becomes Callas
 in a vocal *'Master Class.'*
page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 20 • 13 May 2004

BRAD PITT TALKS 'TROY' TO THE B.A.R.

TROJAN BEAUTY

by Tim Nasson

When one thinks of the actor Brad Pitt, the word "middle-aged" hardly ever crosses one's mind. Instead, the title "Sexiest Man Alive" may come to the fore. Pitt lays claim to being the only person named "Sexiest" by *People* magazine twice, in 1994 and 2000.

But believe it or not, Pitt is no longer a boy. Along with being one-half of the poster couple for marriage (with his wife, *Friends'* Jennifer Aniston), Pitt has recently reached a milestone.

"It's amazing what an impending midlife crisis will do for you, really. It got me motivated. I just turned 40 in December," says Pitt, sporting a crew-cut, wearing a striped polo shirt and khakis during lunch at Essex House, in a suite overlooking Central Park South.

"I see it, turning 40, as a real badge of honor. I really kind of enjoyed it. No more excuses, you know? I'm responsible. I can't blame anything on my parents any longer. I'm responsible for my mistakes and my choices."

Pitt's latest choice, after a three-year hiatus from movies, is the role of golden-boy, long-haired Achilles in Wolfgang Petersen's retelling of Homer's *Iliad*, the epic, \$200 million *Troy*. Pitt co-stars with Eric Bana (*The Hulk*), Orlando Bloom (*Lord of the Rings*) and Hollywood icon Peter O'Toole.

Most will think Pitt looks better in *Troy* than he did 15 years ago in his big-screen debut which catapulted him to fame, as the hitchhiking thief who teaches Geena Davis about the joys of sex and robbing convenience stores in *Thelma & Louise*. I sat with Pitt the day the 2004 *People* magazine's "50 Most Beautiful People" issue hit the stands. He and his wife both appear on the cover.

"It was brutal," says Pitt about attaining the chiseled chest and washboard stomach he sports in his latest film. "Since I had to go around naked or at least shirtless for most of the film, I had to at least look good," he says. "I started working out about six months ahead of shooting. I got a guy who knew what he was talking about to help me get in shape. It was four meals a day of protein and low-carb food. It was quitting smoking. And it was two, three hours in the gym, getting to a point of absolute discomfort. After three months, I finally started to enjoy it. On top of that I had sword lessons! But now that the movie is over, I have stopped working out so much and have taken up smoking again."

page 28 ►



photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

INTERGENERATIONAL BLISS



Half-Life author
 Aaron Krach

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GETS A 'HALF-LIFE'

by Tim Miller

Half-Life by Aaron Krach; Alyson Publications, \$13.95

Aaron Krach's *Half-Life* is a sexy, soulful and sassy exploration of the sparks that fly when humans collide. Exploring the travails of Adam, a young gay man preparing to graduate from high school in a mythical corner of Los Angeles called Angelito, Krach creates a world that crackles with authenticity and erotic heat. Angelito becomes the container for

Adam's desires and dreams as he launches into a surprising romance with a gay cop. The Los Angeles basin itself seethes with danger and possibility in Krach's deft, earthy writing.

Wise to the tides of love, author Krach invites us into a funny, moving world in this kick-ass first novel. I spoke with him about California, and high school boys romancing cops.

Tim Miller: Your appealing central character Adam is a complex yet archetypal queer youth on the edge of adulthood. What drew you to explore that cusp of real life, graduating from high school?

Aaron Krach: I know it sucks for most people, but I loved being in high school. I had a boyfriend, even though everyone thought we were "best friends." I was successful at my "activities." Everyone always says, "Those are the best years of your life." Well, I think they're right. They're also wrong, because after graduation is when the real fun begins.

page 40 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

What were we going to say?

We get distracted by *The Darkness*, Macaulay Culkin, et al.

by Roberto Friedman

Sometimes, by the helping hands of temptation, you just get led astray from the work or play you've planned. It's like that partyboat of big, fat straight people who tipped the tub over last week in Lake Travis, Texas, in their desperate attempt to glimpse some flesh: a group of nude sunbathers broasting on the

shore. AP reports 'twas deep into the muddy drink with the big beefers when, all at the same time, they groped to starboard!

Gay and lesbian bar association **Austin Tavern Guild** happened to be hosting *Splash Day*, a semiannual event held at the clothing-optional part of the lakefront, the (get this) *only* public nude beach in Texas. Longhorn lookie-loos should well know that when all the heifers herd to one

side of the barge, something's going to tip big — and it won't be a cheap voyeur!

But we know just how the peeping porkers felt, because *Out There* has also been easily distracted this week, by among other notable markings the splendid arm tattoo of rock star **Nick Oliveri**. *Spin* magazine reveals the tat's the spitting image of a "skull and cross-penis," which puzzled us until we realized it's an old pirate tradition to display the skull and cross-bones.

Then we were sent all the way to Hades by **The Darkness** singer/frontman **Justin Hawkins**' pelvic tattoo, whose fiery flames can be seen flickering above his waxline when he wears his jeans fashionably low — no, way low, as on the cover of the



The flames of Justin Hawkins' tattoo flicker above his pelvic region.

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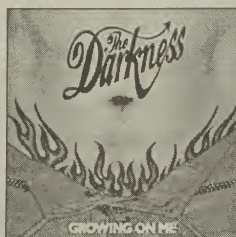
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Darkness' appropriately-titled CD single *Growing on Me*. But dude, isn't it fire season, and wrong to play with matches?

By now, of course, Hawkins is weary of his flaming crotch's celebrity. "That's all people wanna know," he whined to *Rolling Stone*. "How far does the tattoo go? Is it really pierced?"

So, uh, is it really pierced? Turns out it is. Kewl. So he's punctured just like crooner **Lenny Kravitz**, who told *FHM* magazine that *his Prince Albert* drives chicks crazy and is "effective in any position."

Justin, there's just one little thing. It's the matter of your apparently insatiable penchant for second-generation **Stevie Nicks** jumpsuits, which yes, show an

awful lot of skin, but also show a hella lot of fringe. But we suppose that's a discussion for another day.

Mac attack

Teens and queens of all ages ignored the fossilly *Friends* finale last week to meet yummy young thespian **Macaulay Culkin** and his talented teen co-star **Jena Malone** after a SF sneak peek of the upcoming religious-satire flick *Saved!*

Girls in frilly pink short-skirts mixed effortlessly with other "girls" of a certain age, but when the stars came out (well, not literally), they were greeted by shrieks of ecstasy from all the assembled. One of the first fans up, a valley girl, asked Mac for a kiss. "O-kay," Mac replied with a sultry pout. Not to be left out, a gaggle of girls soon queued up to get a hug and spoon from the star. Finally, a young teen queen waded in to get his own piece of the action. OT is pleased to relay that the *Homo* was not *Alone*: Culkin reportedly squeezed his young male fan with an equal amount of zest.

While we're at it, we're just beside OTselves with joy at being able to pass on another tiny filmie scooplet *du jour*, namely that biopic *Superstar in a Housedress - The Life and Legend of Jackie Curtis*, the sexually ambiguous **Andy Warhol** superstar, is confirmed for a run at the Castro Theatre beginning August 6. Jackie is remembered on film by 30 friends and colleagues, including immortal folk like **Harvey Fierstein**,

Holly Woodlawn, **Paul Morrissey** and **Lily Tomlin**. As **Andy** would say: Gee, we can't wait!

Streisand in Dolores Park!

OK, that's a distracting and slightly deceptive subhead, but the **San Francisco Neighborhood Theater Foundation**, in conjunction with local residents and merchants, will host a first-of-its-kind outdoor screening of the 1972 screwball comedy classic *What's Up, Doc?* on Saturday, May 15, in SF's Mission Dolores Park.

Organizers hope to establish a new neighborhood cinema tradition at Dolores Park, bringing people together to enjoy a classic SF film. *Doc?* stars **Barbra Streisand** and **Ryan O'Neal**. Previews, including a showcase of trailers from movies produced by SF-based filmmakers, begin at 8 p.m., followed by the screening of *What's Up, Doc?* at 8:30 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring blankets and other comforts appropriate for lawn seating, but FYI: chairs that obstruct the views of others are discouraged. A \$5 donation is asked to help cover event costs, but no one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Proceeds benefit the SF Neighborhood Theater Foundation and **Save the New Mission**. Info at www.sfnighborhoodtheater.org.

Life cycle

We're also consumed with current events involving **Bike** jocks, page 40 ►

Out There

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directed by Doyle Ott
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Macaulay Culkin and Jena Malone in SF at the *Saved!* sneak peek.

Perilous pairings

Theatre Rhino's 'A Pinter/Albee Duet'

by Richard Dodds

What has happened in the years since Edward Albee wrote *The Zoo Story* in 1959? Well, the comfortable salary for an Upper East Sider has gone from \$18,000 a year to \$200,000, and Stephen King has replaced J.P. Marquand as easy reading. At least, these are changes that director Neal H. Shorstein has made to give the Albee play a contemporary setting.

But plays exist in their time in ways that go beyond specific references, and the efforts to update the relevancy of *Zoo Story* cause more disorientation than illumination. But Harold Pinter's 1962 *The Collection*, the second part of a double bill at Theatre Rhino, has been left alone, and seems more timeless because of it.

These two plays are a good fit for each other, and are reasonably, if far from remarkably, produced. Both create edgy dynamics among strangers who become much more than that before the stories are done. They also provide Tim Hendrixon, an actor new on my radar, with two fundamentally different roles that he plays with astonishing veracity in each case.

In *The Zoo Story*, he plays Jerry, an ordinary guy without much of a past or future who heads to Central Park looking for a willing ear to fill and complacent heart to disturb. His victim is Peter, a pipe-smoking bookish sort given to say-



Ross Pasquale as Peter, Tim Hendrixon as Jerry in *The Zoo Story*.

ing things like, "My dear fellow..." The connection that is finally made ends in violence, and has ended the story for 45 years, but Albee will soon unveil a companion play that delves into the ramifications of this park-bench encounter.

Coming across something like Joe Pantoliano's Ralphie in *The Sopranos* as Jerry, Hendrixon is barely recognizable when he returns in *The Collection* as Harry, a proper old queen living in luxury in London. While Hendrixon is at home with both characters, Ross Pasquale fares better as the "slum slug" Bill, as Harry calls him, in the second half than as the somewhat artificially drawn middle-class milquetoast of the curtain-raiser.

Bill is indeed a product of the

slums, as Harry is quick to point out about the younger man who now lives with him. It is clearly a homosexual relationship, but when Bill is accused of adultery with a married woman, the angry cuckolded husband starts to enjoy his rival's hospitality. An assured Nick Sholley brings an ominous omniscience to the role of the husband, and Megan Biolchini creates a delicate wife who may or may not have slept with Bill. As is often the case with Pinter, the mystery has no solution. ▼

A Pinter/Albee Duet will run at Theatre Rhino through May 30. Tickets are \$15-\$30. Call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

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Boys' town

'Troy' makes a Pitt stop in Hollywood

by Robert Julian

Let's get one thing straight: there is only one blond in Troy. Helen (Diane Kruger) may quiver tremulously in a corner with her dark golden locks, doing a muted impersonation of the young Ursula Andress, but all the Marilyn moments belong to Brad Pitt. Buff, oiled, and pumped for action, Pitt assays the role of Achilles with a stiff upper lip, plunging neckline, and a complement of Garnier Nutrisse locks that out-blonds Troy's raven-haired cast of thousands. Unfortunately, despite his hard work and determination, Pitt's Achilles still looks like the guy at the back of the room who lobs spitballs at the teacher before cutting class to go surfing.

The ancient story of Troy is a simple one. Sparta and Troy are warring kingdoms. Paris (Orlando Bloom) is a Prince of Troy who falls in love with Queen Helen of

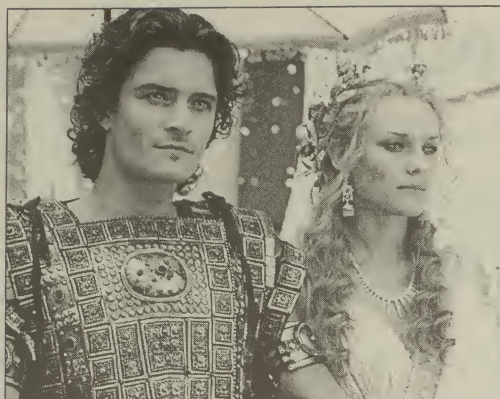
Sparta. She leaves her husband King Menelaus (Brendan Gleeson) and returns to Troy with Paris. This sets off a war between the two kingdoms. Menelaus' brother, Agamemnon (Brian Cox), is the King of the Mycenaeans, and he combines his troops with those of Sparta to make an assault on the city of Troy. King Priam (Peter O'Toole) and his elder son Prince Hector (Eric Bana) prepare to defend themselves and their walled city of Troy against the onslaught of the troops — with particular attention to Achilles, the opposition's star warrior.

David Benioff's script dutifully renders the ancient story of this conflict, but his dialogue and Wolfgang Petersen's direction produce a film without highs or lows. It all unfolds predictably, and quite beautifully, due to the wonderful production design of Nigel Phelps and the cinematography of Roger Pratt. Special kudos go to Bob Ringwood, who designed the

costumes for a cast that is 98% male. When the boys aren't in their fighting drag (leather mini-skirts and helmets), they parade around tents and temples in color-coordinated, ankle-length sarongs with matching V-neck fringed vests. Fans of male pulchritude will find there is no shortage of eye-candy in Troy, and Ringwood's costumes show it off to good advantage. Eric Bana, as Hector, not only possesses more gravitas than Pitt, but he has a better body. Maybe that's why we see so little of it in Troy.

Physical education

Clocking in at 2 hours and 45 minutes, the dramatic flatline of Troy may prove a difficult sell, despite the physical allure of the cast and great special effects. For almost three hours, they fight, they talk, they fight, they talk, and they fight. That's it. Pitt works hard, but he does not rise to the dramatic occasion. His performance is not on the same level as



Prince of Troy (Orlando Bloom); Helen, Queen of Sparta (Diane Kruger)

Russell Crowe in *Gladiator*, Kirk Douglas in *Spartacus*, or Charlton Heston in *Ben Hur*. Yet that kind of star turn is what this elaborate production calls for. The supporting cast is competent, but the great Julie Christie is reduced to a brief cameo as Achilles' mother, Thetis. Only one scene grabbed me by the throat and made me sit at attention.

Troy's aged King Priam is portrayed by Peter O'Toole. When his son Hector is killed by Achilles, the king sneaks into the warrior's tent late one night to beg Achilles for the return of his son's body.

O'Toole, consistently working above the material, summons all the experience of his 40-plus years of cinematic stardom for this moment. Priam's quiet plea to Achilles is majestic, heart-breaking, and inspiring. I watched thousands fight and hundreds die, but only this moment made me want to stand up and cheer, and it came about due to the great artistry of an ancient actor. It was, for this reviewer, the only to-die-for moment in Troy. ▼

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Brad Pitt

◀ Arts cover

I guess I am a bad boy. Or is it bad man, now that I'm 40?"

Heel bound

Ironically, all the fighting lessons in the world couldn't prevent Pitt, who plays Achilles, from tearing his Achilles tendon, which put him out of commission for almost two months. "The shoot was plagued with problems," he says. "Not only did I get hurt, but instead of shooting in Morocco, which was the first choice, the producers decided on Mexico, due to the war in Iraq. No sooner did they build the sets in Los Cabos than one of the biggest hurricanes ever recorded there passed through and ruined them. Then a second hurricane came during the reconstruction of the sets."

Pitt has more to smile about

than his great looks, fame and fortune. "Now that Jen is done with *Friends*, we're going to try and have a family. The rehearsals are over. We can't wait to begin a family." But don't count on seeing the lovebirds on the big screen together. "The guest spot I did on *Friends* is probably all you're going to see of Jen and me together on film. We'd like to do a movie together, but we are cautious. If you look through history, all the acting couples that make a movie together, the odds aren't with us. If we did make a movie together, it would really have to be delicately hand-picked."

The "Sexiest Man Alive" has come a long way in 15 years. For *Thelma & Louise*, the movie that put him on the map, Pitt earned a paltry \$6,000. For *Ocean's Twelve*, the sequel to *Ocean's Eleven*, Pitt will earn \$30 million. "I'm currently shooting the *Ocean's* sequel

next page ►

FILM

Baseballs and oddballs

2004 DocFest at two venues this weekend

by David Lamble

They're back! Returning to the Roxie Cinema and the Women's Building after a year's hiatus, the 2004 DocFest, the bastard child of the San Francisco Independent Film Festival, presents the ugly ducklings of the world of nonfiction film, May 13-16. Each filmmaker capably pursues his or her obsessive interest in an oddball subject, perhaps a tad beyond our interest. Of the five films we've previewed, several subjects might have been better served as segments on *60 Minutes*, *Inside Edition* or even *Cops*.



Screw publisher Al Goldstein

Al Goldstein: The Trials of the Sultan of Smut Time has not been kind to *Screw* magazine publisher Al Goldstein. Once hailed as the poor man's Larry Flynt, Goldstein's fabled "peter meter" is beyond the help of Viagra. First-time filmmaker James Guardino literally stumbles over the aging porn king as Goldstein waits in a crowded Brooklyn Police holding cell. The 66-year-old portly publisher, who introduced pubic hair to printed porn, ran one of the first gay columns in a non-gay paper and boasted the filthiest mouth in Gotham before Howard Stern had his first erection, is now behind bars, but not in defense of the First Amendment. In a rather tacky episode, he's accused of issuing vile threats against his 27-year-old, female ex-personal assistant. The filmmaker becomes a kind of surrogate son (Goldstein's real son no longer speaks to him) and allows us to watch in bemused horror as Goldstein milks his last 15 minutes of fame issuing outrageous, profane and borderline racist rants against everyone in sight, including the Chinese-American judge at his trial. (Women's Bldg., 5/14, 9:30 p.m.)

Up for Grabs For those with the patience to follow the truly preposterous spectacle of two men fighting for two years over a baseball, novice filmmaker Mike Wra-

Two men fight for two years over Barry Bonds' baseball in *Up for Grabs*.

novics concocts a tasty treat. Buried in the reports of Barry Bonds' record-breaking 73rd home run on October 7, 2001, Wranovics noted a small item describing the distress of a fan who claimed to have caught the ball that might be worth millions, only to have it "stolen" from his glove in the scrum of fans at Pac Bell Park. Wranovics saw this fortune dropping from the sky, only to slip through somebody's hands, as a great metaphor for the broken dreams of the dot-com bust. The film becomes a 90-minute nonfiction satirical novel, with implausible story elements straight out of the Kennedy assassination saga or the OJ trial. (Roxie, 5/13, 9:15 & 11p.m.)

Still Doing It The intimate lives of women over 65. You can throw out all the advice books for aging baby-boomers and take to heart the example of the women in Deirdre Fishel's film. From Bohemian gadflies to proper church-ladies, these women learn that for a growing minority of feisty seniors, an active sex life is possible at any age. Most instructive is the real-life *Harold and Maude* story of 74-year-old Betty and her 26-year-old boyfriend. After an Internet crush brought this hunky Prince Charming to her door, Betty confesses that fears about her sagging torso could have sabotaged the affair. Her boyfriend notes that their success stemmed in part from the good fortune of their meeting just after Betty had the hip-replacement surgery that allowed her to move about in bed like a teenager. Plus *The Naked Feminist*: Australian filmmaker Louisa Achille tries to finally put to rest the tired debate that feminism and eroticism are somehow incompatible. With Veteran Bay Area porn star Annie Sprinkle. (Women's Bldg., 5/16, 2:30 p.m.)

Awful Normal Celesta Davis explores the memories she and sister Karen have of being molested

as children by a male friend of their father's. As a therapy tool for recovering incest survivors, the film has much to recommend it, but the slow pacing, awkward film technique (shutting off the camera for long stretches as the sisters and their mother confront the molester, now a seemingly genial old codger) and an embarrassingly extended crying jag by one of the sisters (no doubt cathartic for her) make us feel like we're witnessing an event that should have remained private. (Women's Bldg., 5/16, 5:15 p.m.) ▼

www.sfindie.com

Brad Pitt

◀ previous page

in Chicago."

What is Brad's Achilles' heel? "I'm not going there," he says with a smirk. "I don't know. It's intimacy for all of us. Isn't it, pretty much, for nine out of 10 people?"

Pitt's advice for co-star Orlando Jones: "I told him to keep his pants on, which I certainly do not in this movie, or most movies I am in."

On wearing a toga, Pitt says, "It was very comfortable. I didn't wear anything underneath. Just like the Greeks in ancient times, who wore no underwear. I guess you could say they were free-balling. But when you think about it, it's a bit odd, because your face, chest and arms are protected with this heavy armor, yet your vitals are hanging in the wind. That's a kill shot, to me. I don't understand that. A lot more soldiers would have died if they had thought about that, I'm sure." ▼

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The lioness tamer

'On Cukor,' gay director out on DVD

by Tavo Amador

Classic Hollywood hailed George Cukor (1899-1983) as the ultimate "woman's director," a label he loathed. This veiled reference to his homosexuality suggested he wasn't in the same league as macho Victor Fleming, who replaced him on *Gone With the Wind* ('39), Frank Capra, or John Ford. While Cukor

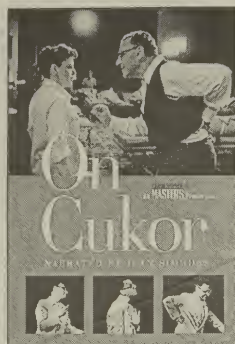
guided two actresses to Academy Awards, straight William Wyler directed seven women to Oscars and heterosexual Elia Kazan five, yet neither was tagged a "woman's director." Unlike gay contemporaries Vincente Minnelli and Edmund Goulding, Cukor didn't hide his sexual orientation. Hollywood's discomfort with his openness delayed his long-deserved Oscar, which finally came for *My Fair Lady* ('64).

Gavin Lambert interviewed the director for his '72 book, *On Cukor*, which became the basis for an *American Masters* segment now available on DVD. Narrated by Jean Simmons, the luminous star of his *The Actress* ('53), the DVD intersperses the director's comments with scenes from his films and assessments from his greatest discovery, Katharine Hepburn, Peter Bogdanovich, Shelley Winters, Claire Bloom, Angela Lansbury, Jack Lemmon, critic Richard Schickel, Lambert, and others.

Born in New York City, Cukor had extensive theatrical experience before becoming a dialogue coach at Paramount during the advent of sound. He and producer David Selznick formed an early friendship, resulting in acclaimed screen versions of literary works — *Little Women* ('33), featuring Hepburn's sensational Jo March, and *David Copperfield* ('34), with W.C. Fields' memorable Micawbar. On the set, Cukor created a warm ambience, enabling actors to take risks. He didn't trust editors, and often shot major scenes in one take. Fidelity to the script interested him, not innovative camera techniques. Orson Welles admired Cukor's confidence in simply concentrating on actors, letting them carry the story.

Hello, Shelley

He helmed many definitive



performances: Jean Harlow in *Dinner at Eight* ('33), Greta Garbo in *Camille* ('37), Cary Grant in *Holiday* ('38), Joan Crawford and Rosalind Russell in *The Women* ('39), James Stewart in *The Philadelphia Story* ('40), Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer in *Gaslight* ('44), Judy Holliday in *Born Yesterday* ('50), and Judy Garland and James Mason in *A Star Is Born* ('54). He gave Winters her break in '47's *A Double Life* (which won Ronald Colman a Best Actor Oscar), and directed the remarkable screen debuts of Lansbury and Lemmon. Even his failures were interesting — notably, *Sylvia Scarlett* ('35), with Hepburn in male drag, flirting with Grant.

Selznick's firing him from *Gone With the Wind* was the most controversial event of Cukor's career. He began work on the movie without a script, testing actresses for Scarlett, before Vivien Leigh won the role. At his urging, Olivia de Havilland played Melanie. Because Selznick wasn't ready to

shoot, Cukor worked at MGM, even directing *The Wizard of Oz* ('39) for three days. At his insistence, the curly blonde wig Garland had been wearing was permanently removed.

Once shooting began on GWTW, Cukor found Selznick too controlling, second-guessing his every move. Cukor resisted, leading to his dismissal. Some sources say Clark Gable resented him, fearing he would throw the picture to Leigh, or worried that Cukor knew of some early gay hustling he may have done, and therefore demanded his removal. The last seems unlikely, because Gable knew Cukor was directing months before shooting started — and raised no objections. Leigh and de Havilland continued rehearsing with him after Fleming took over, and virtually all of Cukor's scenes remained in the final version.

He recovered with *The Women*, telling the all-star, all-female cast, including arch-rivals Norma Shearer and Crawford, to pull in their claws and get to work. Cukor survived Marilyn Monroe's firing from *Something's Got To Give* ('62), and the film's initial cancellation. He thrived in the studio system, and didn't do well after its collapse, directing only four films after *My Fair Lady*: *Justine* ('69), from Lawrence Durrell's novel; *Travels With My Aunt* ('72); the disastrous American-Russian co-production of *The Blue Bird* ('76) with Elizabeth Taylor, Ava Gardner, and Jane Fonda; and a last success, *Rich and Famous* ('81) with Jacqueline Bisset and Candace Bergen, making him, at 82, the oldest working director in Hollywood history. Desiring unemployment, he had turned to television, notably with Hepburn and Laurence Olivier in *Love Among the Ruins* ('75), which netted them all Emmys.

A Star Is Born is Cukor's masterpiece, despite butchering by studio head Jack Warner. It initially opened at three-and-a-half hours, to great reviews and big box-office. But Warner cut half an hour to allow additional showings at theatres. Many key scenes were destroyed. Cukor couldn't bear to watch his bastardized movie. When, after painstaking research, some of his original footage was found, he agreed to see the partially restored version, but died two days before it was shown in Los Angeles. ▼

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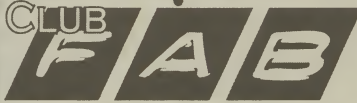
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DE SALVO

Signed, sealed, and delivered

Three young tenors express and impress on new CDs

by Stephanie von Buchau

Ifredo Kraus and Franco Corelli are dead, and the so-called "Three Tenors" might as well be. It's been too many years since the original tenor conclave at the Rome World Cup spawned a recording and stadium phenomenon that was originally great fun and then became tired, commercial and redundant. One can almost forgive listeners who think there are no other high-voiced male singers in the world.

Yet they'd be wrong. Roberto Alagna, Marcello Giordani, and Ramon Vargas have filled in ad-

mirably and artistically. Marcello Alvarez and Salvatore Licitra show signs of growing into major artists. Juan Diego Florez started out gangbusters, though the handsome Peruvian has run into some vocal difficulties lately. Jose Cura has the looks, attitude and hubris (he conducts his own recorded recitals; not even Plácido Domingo is that conceited), but his voice is under precarious control. Then there is that sexy new breed, "The Countertenors."

Thump into my inbox comes a bunch of tenor albums, ranging from international superstar David Daniels, still the dishiest of male altos, to Joseph Calleja, a 24-year-old phenom from Malta who not only sounds great but looks like a young James Gandolfini, thick and thuggishly attractive. But first there is Rolando Villazon, like Vargas a Mexican with a beautifully placed lyric tenor. He appears with Ruth Ann Swenson in San Francisco Opera's *La Traviata* this September. Villazon's new disc, *Italian Opera Arias* (Virgin Classics), is standard fare, winningly delivered.

The album starts with "Federico's Lament" from Cilea's forgotten *L'Arlesiana*. It shows off a lyric tenor like no other piece in the repertory. Conductor Marcello Viotti weaves a fragrant, leisurely accompaniment for this song of a shepherd wounded by his faithless lover. It was always my favorite



Kraus aria, arching into the upper register with unerring poignancy. Villazon is more convincing with the sensitivity and pain than with the actual execution of the notes — too much dynamic pin-pointing, not enough forward thrust for my taste.

Oddly enough, on *Tenor Arias* (Decca), Calleja sings it the same way, all agonizing interpretation and not enough trust in the composer's simple musical effects. Both gentlemen should take a posthumous master class from Señor Kraus. After that slight misunderstanding of what tenor singing is about — no, we don't want you to yell, but too much "sensitive" mucking about is counterproductive — both guys deliver the goods.

Heavy duty

Villazon's tenor is handsome, rich, with an easy, ringing upper register. Considering that he ventures into heavy-duty Puccini roles (Rodolfo, Cavaradossi), it may be surprising that his bel canto singing (Donizetti's *Edgar* and *Nemorino*; Verdi's *Duke* and *Alfredo*) is still so fresh and pointed. Don't get your knickers



in a twist if I call *La Traviata* "bel canto." It should be, and if Alfredo's big scene (including the cabaret, "O mio rimorso") is any indication, Ruth Ann is going to die happily in September.

Calleja's album duplicates the Donizetti and Verdi scenes from *Lucia*, *Rigoletto* and *Traviata*; the comparison is edifying. How could one choose between them? Simple — you don't have to, and what is more amazing, you have no trouble telling the two voices apart. Calleja is truly what his conductor Riccardo Chailly claims, a throwback to an old style of vocal production thought to be extinct. The sound bears resemblance to Gigli, without the sobs.

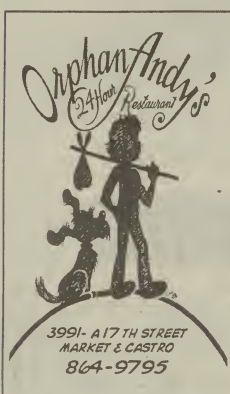
Daniels takes us from the standard Italian operatic repertory (which he wouldn't sing in any case) to the standard French song rep, in which he is a master. His rendition of Berlioz's *Nuits d'été*, on his new Virgin Classics album, goes right up there with my favorite interpretations by Janet Baker and Regine Crespin. With John Nelson conducting, Daniels sings the "Villanelle" effortlessly, while "Le spectre de la rose," "Sur les lagunes" and "Absence," Gaudi-



er's painful meditations on lost love, are delivered with a tender poise all the more effective for not tearing passion to tatters.

Many people have told me they don't "get" Daniels' alto with its feminine (or, to be more accurate, androgynous) qualities. I understand the problem, but I am at a loss to offer help. Daniels doesn't always sing well, live or on discs. Like June Anderson, another singer touched by both divine inspiration and all-too-common physical ailments, he can't always get out of his own way. On this disc, however, he strikes a nearly perfect balance between vocal serenity and desperate intensity.

Starting on a high, Daniels continues in the same exalted vein with Ravel's "Five Popular Greek Melodies" and Faure's "En sourdine," "Mandoline" and "Clair de lune." Unlike the usual unwelcome orchestral interludes in these affairs, Nelson and the handpicked Ensemble Orchestral de Paris play the utterly appropriate "Pantomime" from *Les Troyens*, Ravel's "Pavane" and Faure's "Elegie" for cello. This disc already has my vote for top vocal album of the year. ▼



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MUSIC

Many happy returns

MTT is back on the podium at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

After a fortnight of tranquilizing concerts that plodded their way through the glories of J.S. Bach, Michael Tilson Thomas returned to the podium at Davies Hall last week to bring some much-needed interest and energy back to the slumping Symphony season.

His presence is always invigorating, but after the recent disappointment of Vance George's Bach Mass in B minor, the need for an MTT adrenaline rush was becoming critical. With the Beethoven Festival right around the corner, it's encouraging to see him back, leading the orchestra with all his customary flair.

Dmitry Sitkovetsky's drowsy arrangement and recent performances of Bach's Goldberg Variations were frustrating enough, but the unexpected mishandling of the Mass in B minor by veteran San Francisco Symphony Chorus Director Vance George was downright dispiriting.

With 20 years under his belt, George has proved himself countless times as one of the great choral leaders in the country. The failure of his Bach interpretation to cohere or inspire can only be counted as a minor incident in a brilliant career.

Unsurprisingly, the choral episodes buoyed up an otherwise lethargic performance, and the contributions from tenor James Taylor, making his SFS debut, were also helpful. The other soloists were merely adequate, and

the orchestra could only dutifully follow George's blurry beat.

Gifted guest

What a relief, then, to savor a typically high-octane concert with MTT and a spectacularly gifted guest artist. The repertoire was beautifully balanced, with both the fresh and more familiar given equal intensity. The central selection, Prokofiev's *Sinfonia concertante for Cello and Orchestra*, was especially magical.



Harrell shows artistry and passion.

Lynn Harrell's illustrious career has never propelled him into the kind of superstardom enjoyed by Yo-Yo Ma, but his artistry and passion are nonetheless impressive. Looking newly trim and genially focused, he tore into Prokofiev's daunting but lyrical

score with mind-boggling assurance.

Of course, this is music tailor-made for MTT as well. Complex, urbane and full of good melodies, the Symphony Concerto allowed the conductor his own fair share of attention. He would never upstage his soloist, but the brilliant support of the orchestra certainly gave Harrell the necessary framework, and the results were thrilling.

The evening began with a scintillating "Rondes des printemps" from Debussy's *Images pour orchestre* and concluded with a particularly lithe, theatrical interpretation of Cesar Franck's Symphony in D minor.

Franck is usually considered a one-hit wonder, and the Symphony is undoubtedly the most well-known of his compositions, but he was a remarkable orchestral writer with some fine tone-poems and choral works to his credit.

Tilson Thomas is clearly in sync with the dramatic elements of the Symphony, and his careful molding of the sonorous melodies (big memorable tunes they are) served as a reminder of the composer's reputation as a gifted organist. The music welled up and expanded to powerful effect, and the generally fast pace flowed to a magnificent conclusion.

The audience gave Harrell a standing ovation, and he deserved one. The response to MTT's triumph was equally enthusiastic,



SFS Music Director MTT with SFS Chorus Director Vance George.

even if the standing patrons were actually only preparing to leave the hall. Having the maestro back, giving his all in fairly infrequently

performed repertoire, is a testament to his musicianship and the good fortune of Symphony regulars. ▼

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Celebrating Beethoven

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony has always been adept at putting together satisfying and edifying music festivals. Since Michael Tilson Thomas began his tenure, they have been even more intriguing and memorable.

We haven't been treated to an *American Mavericks* or new music series for a while now, but Wagner and Beethoven sell more tickets, and no one could pretend that either composer was any less revolutionary in the history of the Western operatic or orchestral tradition.

This May's three-week festival is devoted to Beethoven and the music of his contemporaries. It begins on May 13 with a symposium moderated by MTT, featuring chamber works of Beethoven, Muzio Clementi, Anton Diabelli, Antoine Reicha and Daniel Steibelt.

Perhaps the hardest ticket of the festival will be two semi-staged performances of *Fidelio*, with a cast that includes Tina Kiberg as Leonora, and tenors Robert Gambill and Eric Cutler as Florestan and Jacquino. Veteran bass Paul Plishka will appear as Rocco. Given the notable success of last year's performances of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*, this should be another exciting chance to hear MTT conducting opera.

Another special highlight of *Beethoven's Vienna: Scenes from a Musical Revolution* will be two performances of *A Beethoven Journey*, offering choral works featuring the SFS Chorus and an appearance by pianist Anton Nel, in recital before the concert proper.

Other notable pianists included in festival programs are Jean-Yves Thibaudet, Jon Nakamatsu and Garrick Ohlsson. The Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 3 is scheduled along with Ladislav Dussek's Piano Concerto in D minor.

A number of pre-concert events will be free to ticket-holders, including recitals and discussions with MTT and other artists. The Symphony No. 3 *Eroica* is considered the seminal work propelling the entire festival, and it will be performed twice.

I remember having one of those "desert island" conversations with a friend who said, "Mozart and Bach are genius, but Beethoven moves me." My sentiments exactly, and I am eagerly looking forward to visiting Beethoven's Vienna. More information is available online at the Symphony's excellent website, sfsymphony.org. ▼

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OUT & ABOUT



Church-going boys David Fitzpatrick and Scott Cox lock lips in NCTC's *Southern Baptist Sissies*. See Saturday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Under attack

Lately I've been forced to meditate on what's happening to our hard-pressed artist/renter community. Once again (still) it's being sacked by the red-hot real-estate market and landlords eager to evict long-term, well-behaved tenants in favor of haughtily prosperous, newly arrived homebuyers — very often gay — who don't mind booting low-income artists, people with AIDS, elders, and others in order to live the high life in this emerald city.

Though we have the best citizens in the world inhabiting San Francisco, we've also got scalpers ready and willing to plunder the underclass — the struggling artists, the working poor, those grappling to overcome addictions, those seeking to lead lives as off-the-grid as possible, all vital to a balanced social ecology. Renters are suffering, in large part because of shortsighted public policy, the greed of developers, the complacency of a fat and happy citizenry, and a cold, war-like belligerence on the part of property owners.

My dear friends Eric Larson and Mitcho Thompson and twelve other tenants in their Victorian house/home in Duboce Triangle have received Ellis Act eviction notices. Eric is a major force in protecting our natural environment. He works for the EPA and is sweet natured with a Midwestern work ethic. His long-term partner Mitcho is famous for having developed ingenious art programs for LYRIC's queer youth, helping them to come out with dignity and creativity as they mature into responsible citizens. He's been a force for good and should be lionized as a hero, not tossed to the lions.

Elsewhere in the Castro, over by Collingwood Park, beloved local celebrity Gina Hall recently had her rental home raided by cops, who busted her for selling pot, though she's an old-school hippy and everyone knows it. She hurts no one! For chrissakes she's the girlfriend of famed Parliament Funkadelic musician George Clinton! Hall's richly hippyish abode is hung throughout with his paintings. Even Gina's rascally little pet, AtomicDawg, is a celebrity with his own website (www.atomicdawg.com/funk.html). It's as though the cops suddenly decided to wipe out the last vestiges of Harvey Milk's revered hippy culture in the Castro.

The ultimate offense is that Tibetan bell maestro Karma Moffett is being tossed from his long term temple-dwelling in the Castro, at 3895 18th St., where many a spiritual sojourner has gone for respite from disco. This is sad, sad news indeed. This kind of sacking of the artistic underclass should not be tolerated even by the listless gay fatcats who primp in front of their dressing room mirrors, priding themselves on being bitches, not caring as they tear the town's social fabric apart. Sad are politicians who coddle them.

We should be listening to our most progressive politicians on the matter, to our own over-maligned, under-appreciated superhero Tom Ammann, and his old buddy on the Board of Supes, the near mayor Matt Gonzalez. We should return to old-school values of caring for our neighbors, community, and the fabulously diverse, wonderfully multicultural, infinitely magical place we inhabit. ▼

Fri 14

A Pinter/Albee Duet

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Theatre Rhinoceros presents the World Premiere One-Act Combination: "A Pinter/Albee Duet," comprised of *The Collection* by Harold Pinter and *The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee, both directed by Neal H. Shorstein. A sexual roundelay in the swinging-sixties London, *The Collection* touches on all sexual proclivities in a tale of wife- and husband-swapping. *The Zoo Story* shifts the focus to Central Park, where a young man is confronted by the horrors of loneliness and isolation in the person of a mysterious stranger. Featuring Tim Hendrixson, star of last season's *Stranger in Paradox*, Megan Biolchini, star of NCTC's *Last Sunday in June*, Ross Pasquale from Impact Theater's *Queer Theory*, and Nick Sholley, star of the hit play *Dooley*. \$15-\$30. 8pm Thu-Sat; 3pm Sun. Thru May 30. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 415-861-5079; www.the Rhino.org

Dirty Blonde @ NCTC

The New Conservatory Theatre Center (NCTC) presents the romantic comedy *Dirty Blonde* by Claudia Shear, directed by Doyle Ott. Conceived by Shear and James Lapine. It's a touching comedy about Jo and Charlie, two New York loners-turned-lovers who learn to accept themselves through their mutual obsession with the voluptuous film and stage icon Mae West. \$18-\$28. Runs thru June 26, Wed-Sat. @ 8pm & Sundays, May 16, 23 & 30 at 2pm. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

Joan Schirle's *Second Skin* @ Brava

Brava! for Women in the Arts and Del'Arte present *Second Skin* — using the magic of masks and the wit and talent of a master performer to transport the audience on an after-soul's journey to the threshold of the afterlife. Created and performed by Joan Schirle, Del'Arte's co-artistic director. In a series of virtuoso transformations in this solo mask production, Schirle introduces the audience to a group of 15 distinct characters, all connected to a young woman who believe she possesses the living soul of Marilyn Monroe. \$18 & \$22 (\$4 discount for students, seniors and disabled). 8pm Fri. & Sat., May 14 & 15. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (at 24th & York sts.). Tix at BRAVA Box Office 415/647-2822; www.brava.org.

Hairspray @ Golden Gate Theatre

Best of Broadway presents *Hairspray*, directed by Jack O'Brien, with music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Shaiman and Scott Wittman, book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, and choreography by Jerry Mitchell. Set in 1962 Baltimore, *Hairspray* tells the story of Tracy Turnblad (Bruce Vilanch), a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, with only one passion — to dance! \$36-\$78. 8pm. Wed-Sat; 2pm Thu. & Sat. matinees; 2pm & 7:30pm Sun. Show runs thru July 3. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor St. (at Market). Tix: 415-512-7770. Info: 415-551-2000; bestofbroadway-sf.com

Funny Girlz

@ Herbst Theatre

Kung Pao Koster Comedy Presents "The 6th Annual Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor." Come laugh in the aisles with Comedy Central & Tonight Show veteran (Last Comic Standing II), Kathleen Madigan; Side-splitting African American lesbian comic, Karen Williams; LA Writer/Comedian, Page Hurwitz; Native San Franciscan/Ethiopian-American, Yayne Abeba (Last Comic Standing II); Cuban-Irish-American drag queen Coco Lopez; and your short Jewish lesbian hostess, Lisa Geduld. Partial proceeds benefit The National Center for Lesbian Rights. \$20 & \$25. Reserved Seating. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. @ McAllister. Tix: City Box Office, 415-392-4400; www.cityboxoffice.com. Info: 415-522-3737; www.kostercomedy.com

HIV+ Weekend Retreat in Marin County

Marin Life PLUS, a program at Marin AIDS Project, presents: "Keeping Strong Keeping Together: Building A Community Stronger Than HIV," a retreat designed for everyone, whether a long-term survivor, newly positive, or someone from the greater community affected by HIV/AIDS. Presenters from around California will offer 15 different interactive workshops and presentations throughout the weekend, with medical and complimentary treatment updates, an HIV+ women's forum, art therapy, and dating with HIV, to name a few. The 43-

acre retreat facility on Mt. Tamalpais in Mill Valley is just 20 minutes from downtown San Rafael. Info: 415-457-2487, ext 118.

Screwup @ EROS

Screwup is a pangendered BDSM group for trans people, genderqueers and their friends. Tonight's topic: "BDSM on a Budget." Meets on the second Friday of the month. Info: email kithology_screwup@yahoo.com, hoogroups.com, or screwup_sf@yahoo.com. Surf: screwup.tribe.net

The Sunday Crew

@ The Transfer

Opening reception: "The Sunday Crew," a photography and mixed media art exhibit with works by Alissa Anderson, Erin Ash, Jennifer McKay, Mandi Runyan, Heather Renee Russ, and Lindsey Zimmerman. Free. 9pm-2am. 21+ w/ID. 198 Church St. Info: 415-861-7499; mittenmaker@hotmail.com

Radical Women

@ New Valencia Hall

Bay Area Radical Women present a "Reportback on the March for Women's Lives." Participants in the Revolutionary Feminist Contingent will share highlights from this national reproductive rights demo in Washington, D.C. Optional dinner (with vegetarian option) served at 6:15pm for a \$6.50 donation. 7:30pm. 1908 Mission St. (at 15th). Info: 415-864-1278.

Sat 15

Southern Baptist Sissies

@ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the Bay Area premiere of Del Shores' comedy/drama *Southern Baptist Sissies*, directed by Clay David. The play is an exploration into the lives of four Texas gay men raised in the Baptist Church. *Sissies* is set in various Dallas locations over several years. We first see Mark, TJ, Benny, and Andrew as young members of the church choir, singing its hymns, listening to the hell and brimstone sermons of the preacher and watching the pious devotion of their mothers. Taught to view their own desires as an "abomination," the youths cope with their emerging sexualities in different ways. The story evolves as the four young men battle between their fear of damnation and their true sense of sexual identity. The characters also include a pair of boozy barflies given to folksy pronouncements about life in general and sex in particular. Director Clay David is Professor and Dept. Chair of Drama at Contra Costa College in San Pablo, among other positions. \$18-\$28. Wed. Sat. at 8pm; Sun. at 20pm. June 10 performance captioned for the hearing impaired. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market St.). Tix/info: 415-861-8972; www.nctc.org

Voices' Sweet Sixteen

@ Metropolitan Community Church

Voices Lesbian Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Yulia Ronskaya, presents "Sweet Sixteen," a spring concert to celebrate our 16th anniversary. Featuring music of many genres, including folk, jazz, classical and pop. Founded in 1988, Voices strives to reflect the diversity within the lesbian community and is dedicated to social change that overcomes oppression in all its forms. Voices' first CD, *Everything Possible*, was released in the spring of 2002 and will be available at the event, and at Boadecia's Books in Kensington (398 Colusa Ave.) and Modern Times Bookstore (888 Valencia St.) in SF. MCC-SF is a wheelchair-accessible space. This is a scent-free event (please no perfumes/colognes, etc). \$10 adv; \$12 door; \$8 student/senior; under-10 free. 8pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka St. (btwn 18th & 19th). Tix/info: 510-486-8984; www.lesbian.org/voices

SF Dyke March Exhibit

@ Hormel Center, Main Library

Opening: Photographers Jane Cleland and Cathy Cade unveil their expansive exhibition, *The San Francisco Dyke March: Photos by Jane Cleland and Cathy Cade*. From politics and poetry in Dolores Park to the march through the Mission and dancing in the Castro, experience the joy and power of the Dyke March, 1993-2003, through the photographs of two of the City's leading activist photographers. Also included: a 15-minute video of participants talking about what the Dyke March means to them, and assorted artifacts such as T-shirts, signs and banners. Exhibition from, through July 15. Main Library, Third Floor, James C. Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).



Joan Schirle stars in *Second Skin* at the Brava Theater Center. See Friday.

Stephen Kent's *Didjeridu Dreamtime*

@ Randall Theater

The Randall Museum Theater, in collaboration with Young Audiences of the Bay Area, presents renowned multi-instrumentalist, composer and master didjeridu player Stephen Kent, who learned didjeridu among the Aborigines in Australia. \$6 adults; \$3 kids ages 2-12 (free for babes in arms). 1pm. 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above Castro & 14th streets). Info: 415-554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

Other Cinema @ ATA Gallery

Other Cinema rolls out the first part of a two-week suite, *HOB0/B0H0*. Tonight: "Outlaw Nomadology," all about living off the grid (and the land). Bill Daniel will park his custom-built "Salivan" curbside outside of ATA; inside the "chart room" is a two monitor installation, while 16mm projections play across the gaff-rigged sheets above for all the Mission to see. Inside ATA: Daniel's *Soul's Harbor* surveys loners and losers, libertarians and squatters and vagrants living on the margins down by the water. Plus Dan Leighton's 50-min. *Wedding Train*, a hand-held, no-holds-barred hell-ride with gutter-punks hopping freights cross-country. \$5. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; www.othercinema.com

What's Up Doc?

@ Dolores Park

Outdoor movie screening: The SF Neighborhood Theater Foundation, in conjunction with local residents and merchants, will host a first-of-its-kind outdoor screening of the 1972 screwball comedy classic *What's Up Doc?* starring Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal. Preview, including a showcase of trailers from movies produced by SF-based filmmakers, will begin at 8pm, followed by the feature screening at about 8:30pm. Popcorn & refreshments available for lawn seating. \$5 donation encouraged; any proceeds benefit the SF Neighborhood Theater Foundation and Save the New Mission. The film will be screened in the park at Dolores and 19th Streets. Info: 415-465-FILM; www.sfntheatrfoundation.org

May Mahj Madness @ Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hosts "May Mahj Madness," a Queer Jewish Mah-Jongg Night. \$36 per/; \$25 CSZ members. 7:30pm-midnight. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th). Sign-up: Melanie at 415-861-6932; email mkushnir@shaarzahav.org

Parties @ Sweet's Ballroom, Oakland

The Cloud Factory Design Collective presents "Parties: Articles of Party Art 6th Annual Fashion Performance for the Fabulous," the Collective's 6th annual spring fashion performance extravaganza, featuring party wear to get you noticed. You'll find the right outfit to impress any crowd with nihilistic bondage gear, opera hats, and a Chia Pet wedding gown. A post-rave fashion experience. \$12 advance; \$12-\$20 sliding at door. Doors open at 8pm, performance at 9pm; party and sample sale to follow. 21+ w/ID. Historic Sweet's Ballroom, 1933 Broadway, Downtown Oakland. Tix/info: 415.281.9432; www.cfdesign.net

Camper Van

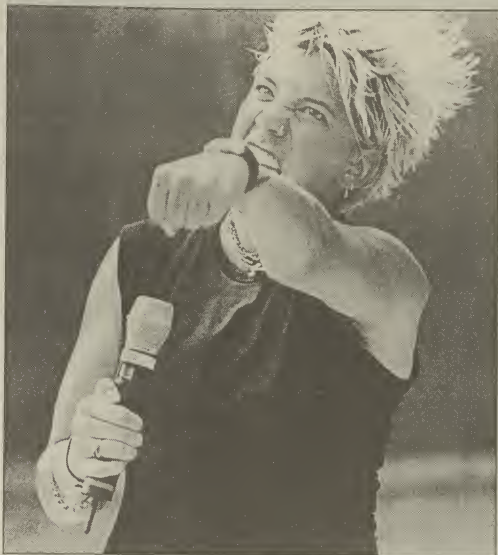
Beethoven/Cracker @ The Warfield

The Warfield comes alive with the famous underground sound of Camper Van Beethoven in one of their rare public performances. This legendary band will be sharing the stage with Cracker, continuing their long relationship. \$25. Doors 7pm; show 8pm. Tix: 415-775-7722 or 415-775-7723. Box Office opens 1-1/2 hours prior to showtime. Info: 415-775-9949.

Sun 16

The 20th Annual SF AIDS Candlelight Vigil

The San Francisco AIDS Candlelight Vigil begins with a process from intersection of



Feisty poet Alix Olson slams at New College. See Wednesday.

Market and Castro Streets at 8pm, followed by a short program of speeches, music, performance art and remembrances in Civic Center. The vigil began in San Francisco and New York in 1983 and was led and organized by people with AIDS to publicly empower themselves and honor those who had died. In April 2000, the Clinton administration declared AIDS a national and global security threat. AIDS has become a global pandemic due to homophobia and fear mongering by politicians. A lack of honest dialogue, poverty amid obscene affluence and empty promises has sealed the coffins of millions throughout the world fueled by a lack of morals or vision from the Bush administration. Silence equals death. Free (donations welcome). Gather 8pm at Castro & Market Streets. Bring friends & candles. Info: AIDS Candlelight Vigil.org

Bay to Breakers

Wear your wildest running drag for "A1-berstons Bay to Breakers," the 93rd Annual Running through the streets of San Francisco. The 7.46 mile/2K course starts at Howard & Spear streets near the Bay front, runs through the heart of the City, and finishes at the breakers of the Pacific Ocean at the Great Highway along Ocean Beach. Adult registration: \$34.50 to May 12; \$40 at The Greater Body Expo, May 14 & 15, at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. Info: 415-359-2800; baytobreakers@examiner.com

SF Prime Timers

@ Unitarian Church

San Francisco Prime Timers, the former G40+ Club, invites everyone to help celebrate club vice-president Carlos Delgado's 81st birthday! To honor this event, he is throwing himself a party with food and a special cake for all the May birthdays. Carlos requests no gifts, please. There will be no speaker today, just time to schmooze and enjoy the food and company. Donations for Project Open Hand collected. 2-4pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). Info: 415-552-1997.

Patrick Califa

@ Borderlands Books

Reading and signing with Patrick Califa, author of *Mortal Companion*. Among many other things, Califa is a licensed marriage and family therapist and prolific author of essays, fiction and poetry, including *Macho Sluts*, *No Mercy*, *Public Sex*, and *Speaking Sex to Power*. Now he turns his pen to vampires in an erotic tale of loneliness, love, seduction and revenge. Free. 2pm. 866 Valencia St. (btwn 19th/20th). Info: 415-824-8203; www.borderlands-books.com

Mon 17

Earplay @ YBCA Forum

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents "Earplay: New Chamber Music," featuring "At the Kansas City Chinese New Year Concert" by Chen Yi (West Coast Premiere); "A Treble (We Should)" by Igor Iachimiciu (2002); *Iris* by Joao Pedro Oliveira (U.S. Premiere); and "Narcissus" by Thea Musgrave (1987). With Mary Chun, conductor. Prizes & surprises. \$18 gen'l; \$12 members/students. Pre-concert talk at 7:15pm; show at 8pm. YBCA Forum, 701 Mission St. Tix/info: 415-978-ARTS (2787); www.yerbabuenaarts.org

Tue 18

Kamala Harris

@ Commonwealth Club

San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris joins in conversation with Jeffrey Brand, Professor & Dean, University of San Francisco School of Law. San Francisco's

first female district attorney, Kamala Harris, pledged improvements in combating violent crime, improving the juvenile justice system and cultivating a more professional D.A.'s office during her campaign. Harris will address her progress in meeting these and other pressing city issues. This is the final of three programs spotlighting San Francisco's new generation of political leaders. \$15 for Members, \$30 for Non-members. 6pm Check-in; 6:30pm Program; 7:30pm Reception. Club Office, 595 Market St., 2nd floor. Reservations: 415-597-6705.

Wed 19

Patti LuPone

@ The Plush Room

The Center and the Empire Plush Room present a Special Performance by Patti LuPone to benefit the San Francisco Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Community Center. Come experience the great music diva and benefit the Center and its many programs benefiting the community. Special ticket prices: \$100 (Patti LuPone in an intimate cabaret debut; Champagne toast; Hors d'oeuvres; a gift bag) & \$300 (LuPone concert; Reserved seating; Champagne toast; Hors d'oeuvres; premium gift bag; private reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres at the Clift Hotel with LuPone; Transportation to and from the York and Clift Hotels for the reception). Doors open at 7 PM; show at 8 PM. Tix: 415-885-2800; www.plush-room.com

David Leavitt

@ ACWLP for Books

Reading and book-signing by renowned author David Leavitt (*The Lost Language of Cranes*) of his latest novel, *The Body of Jonah Boyd*. One memorable Thanksgiving changes the lives of everyone in a university family. Says the publisher: "Hilarious and scorching, David Leavitt's first novel in four years is a tribute to the power of home, the lure of success, the mystery of originality, and, above all, the sisterhood of secretaries." Free. 7pm. A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness Ave. (at Opera Plaza). Info: 415-441-6670; www.bookstore.com

Smack Dab @ Magnet

"Smack Dab," an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-Bob Roberts. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany. All ages and genders welcomed. Featured readers: Jim Provenzano (www.sportscomplex.org), author of two novels, four plays, 20 short stories, and more than 800 news and arts articles. *PINS*, his 1999 debut novel about gay high school wrestlers, was adapted for the stage and debuted at NCTC. His second novel, *Monkey Suits*, was published in 2003; and his column, "Sports Complex," which originated in the *BAR*, is now nationally syndicated. Lori Selke is the editor of *Tough Girls: Down and Dirty Dyke Erotica*, which was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award. She also publishes a small zine called *Problem Child* for literature which refuses to behave. Her writing has appeared in *Girlfriends Magazine*, *Best Lesbian Erotica*, *Best Biseual Erotica*, *Best S/M Erotica*, and a lot of other groovy books and zines. Free. 7:30 Sign-Up, show starts at 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: www.magnetsf.org

Bourgeois @ Venue 9

Venue 9 celebrates the end of an era with "Bourgeois," an evening of dance, music and drag performance. Featuring choreographer Joe Landini's "4 Stories," a contemporary meditation on popular culture and the influence of modern technology, and Trauma Flintstone's "Femmisphere: Songs in the Key of Angst," a cabaret of drag show with special guest Tom Orr (*Dirty Lit-*

tle Show Tunes). \$10. 8pm. Runs Wednesday, May 5, 12, 19 & 26. Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). Info: 885-4006; www.bourgeois.homestead.com

Street Festivals of SF

@ Main Library

Opening reception: Photographers Hiromi Oda and Kieran Ridge capture the diversity and dynamism of the "Street Festivals of San Francisco," an exhibition showcasing 13 festivals including Chinese New Year, Saint Patrick's Day, Cherry Blossom, Carnival, Juneteenth, Dyke March, Gay Pride, Bastille Day, Fillmore Street Jazz, Folsom Street Fair, Halloween in the Castro, and Day of the Dead. For the opening, Colm O'Riain, maestro of the traditional Irish fiddle, will lead a multicultural music ensemble in a mini concert. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, lower level. Info: Catherine King, curator 415-557-4211.

Alix Olson @ New College

"America's favorite lesbian slam poet," Alix Olson, is making waves. In just the past six months she's been featured on HBO's *Def Jam Poetry*, the *Progressive* magazine and featured on *Utne Reader's* InRadio CD. \$10. 7pm. New College Cultural Center, 777 Valencia St. (btwn 18th & 19th). Tix/info: 415-298-5573 or 510-208-1708. (Olson also appears on May 20 at the Oakland Box Theatre, 1928 Telegraph Ave. Oakland. Info: 510-451-1932; www.oaklandbox.com)

Thu 20

Job Fair II @ The Center

The SF LGBT Community Center presents "Job Fair II: the second in a series for 2004, will spotlight Real Estate, Mortgage Lending, Title and Escrow, Healthcare, Life Sciences, Pharmaceutical and a variety of other industries. Both entry-level and experienced positions available. For job seekers to discover the Center as a resource for their career development needs and for employers to partner with the Center to develop and maintain a diverse workplace. Noon-4pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: www.sfcen-ter.org

Strictly Sondheim

@ Randall Theater

The Young People's Teen Musical Theatre Company presents *Strictly Sondheim*, a tribute in music and dance to Stephen Sondheim, directed by Diane Price. A scintillating sampling of Sondheim standards from a selection of well-known and little-known shows. 8pm Thu-Sat, May 20-22; 2pm Sun, May 23. \$7-\$9 at door. For ages 8 and up. Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way. Info: 415-554-9523.

Ninsho Kakinuma

@ Tinhorn Press/Gallery

Opening reception: Japanese zen priest, artist and Beat-generation aficionado, Ninsho Kakinuma, will be working with master printer John Gruenwald for several days in May. The fruits of that collaboration, including etchings, stone lithographs and monotypes, will premiere tonight, along with other recent works by Ninsho. Free. 6-9pm. 511 Laguna St. Info: 415-621-1292; www.tinhorngallery.com

Levander Seniors

of the East Bay

"Lavander Lunch," a catered lunch hosted by Levander Seniors of the East Bay, open to residents of the East Bay and Western Contra Costa County. 12:30-2:30pm. Lake-side Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Info: 510-667-9655.

Situaesthetic music

@ Off-Market Theater

A night of acoustic, electronic, electric, electro-video, and situaesthetic music. Jeff Lubow will use performance software to create a real-time composition. Elise Baldwin's piece is about collective memory and accessing histories. Joel Pickard will play pedal steel guitar differently. Matt Volla's tennisMusic, based on the 2003 Wimbledon Women's Final tennis match between Venus and Serena Williams, is composed by relating where the ball bounced on the horizontal tennis court to a vertical division of pitches. Eric Roth's Music for 2 Floor Toms is a meditation on irregularly shifting complex monotony. \$10. 8pm. 965 Mission at Fifth St. Tix/info: 415-896-6477; www.cafearts.com

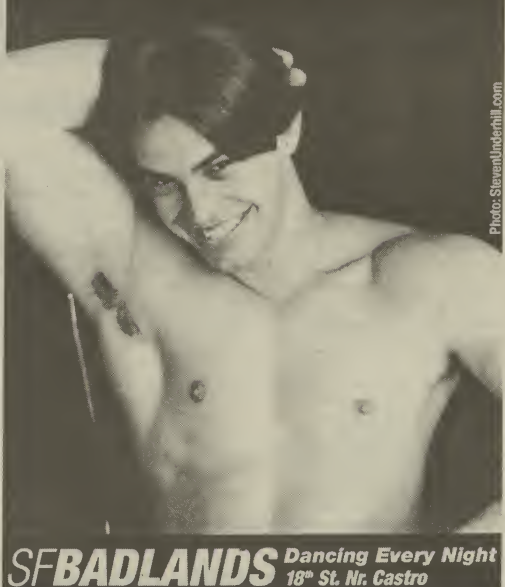
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'Girlz' just wanna have fun

'Funny Girlz' returns to the Herbst Theatre

by Adam Sandel

The 6th annual edition of *Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women's Humor* rolls into the Herbst Theatre on Saturday night. This year's show features nationally renowned comics Kathleen Madigan, Karen Williams and Page Hurwitz, local favorite Yayne Abeba and the fabulously faux girl Coco Lopez. The evening is hosted and produced by comedy entrepreneur Lisa Geduldig.

This year's lineup boasts a bounty of A-list credits. Madigan has starred in her own Comedy Central and HBO comedy specials and has appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *David Letterman*, *Conan O'Brien*, *Hollywood Squares*, *Polit-*

ically *Incorrect*, *Comic Relief*, and HBO's *Women of the Night*.

The LA-based Hurwitz began her comedy career in San Francisco and has gone on to perform at various clubs, colleges and the Montreal *Just for Laughs* and Toyota Comedy festivals. Abeba, a San Francisco native of Ethiopian descent, won the 2002 Russian River Comedy Competition and will appear in this year's *Last Comic Standing Two* on NBC.

Lopez, the most fabulous Cuban exile in the capitalist world, is channeled by gay Cuban-Irish comic Ray Ferrer, a New York exile who currently shares closet space with Coco in San Francisco.

Shore leave

I caught up with Karen

Williams, who has been an out lesbian comic for the past 20 years, as she was getting her land legs back after performing on a Club Med cruise. Although she got her comedy start in the Bay Area, Williams has lived in Cleveland since '92.

"I live like a queen here," she says of Ohio. "I love the Bay Area, but I got tired of living with three other women and sharing a bathroom." Now that the youngest of her three sons has moved out on his own, Williams has more than just a bathroom to herself.

"I refuse to call it an empty nest because I don't need another syndrome, but it's the first time I've lived alone in 33 years," she says. "It's like living in a library."

Williams' comedy material has evolved with her life. "When you're young it starts out as 'me, me, me,' but over the years I've become more aware of the world around me, talking about LGBT

issues and being a lesbian mom," she says.

"A lot of young dykes want to know how I had three children. I tell them, 'I fell asleep three times, and when I woke up they were there.'"

The New York native moved to the Bay Area in 1980 and made her standup debut at Oakland's Hegenberger Inn, "to mostly tables, chairs and a few drunks." While Williams was performing at the women's bar Ollie's in Oakland, Marga Gomez convinced her to perform at her first of many SF Gay Pride festivals.

In addition to performing at many national venues, Williams is now a fixture at Human Rights Campaign fundraisers. "I did an HRC fundraiser in San Antonio for 2,000 white guys," she says. "If we're separated as a community, it's by race. This country is segregated, and you see that in the LGBT community."

Williams believes that to win



Comic Karen Williams: landed.

the battle for gay marriage, the community needs to extend itself beyond racial lines. "I'm primarily a human rights activist as well as an LGBT activist," she says, citing her Buddhist principles of compassion for all living beings. "If you want people to care about your issues, you need to extend your concern to others."

Combining compassion with comedy, Williams founded Cleveland's International Institute of Humor and Healing Arts (the HAHA Institute). Along with

page 40 ►

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Edna (Bruce Vilanch) and Tracy Turnblad (Keala Settle) are the big-boned gals at the center of *Hairspray*.

Baltimore baby

'Hairspray' mostly holds up on tour

by Richard Dodds

One of the trickier situations for a theater reviewer is deciding how much memories of a Broadway production should weigh into opinions about its touring facsimile. After all, most audiences won't have seen the original, so isn't any disappointment for those who can compare the original and the copy irrelevant to those experiencing, and enjoying, the show for the first time?

The show provoking these musings is *Hairspray*, and it's hard to imagine anyone not thoroughly enjoying the production now at the Golden Gate Theatre. But even those with no prior exposure to the musical may sense that at least one of the critical components isn't quite what it should be. I'm sorry to say its name is Bruce Vilanch.

It may seem strange to talk about gravitas in a role created on screen by Divine, but Vilanch's amiable performance doesn't provide one of the key anchors that can make the musical a non-stop high. That he's not Harvey Fier-

stein, who played Edna Turnblad on Broadway, isn't the issue. It's that Vilanch, a comedy writer and occasional actor, really doesn't have the performing skills to help drive a high-octane vehicle like this.

But even with one engine sputtering, *Hairspray* flies higher than most musicals dare even to dream. Vilanch shares star billing with Keala Settle, who plays Edna's daughter Tracy with skill, passion, and enough empathy to let you get a look beyond the primary colors of the show's veneer. Amazingly, this is Settle's first professional job, which only recently became full-time when the tour's original Tracy moved to Broadway and Settle was promoted from her standby role.

Based on John Waters' 1988 movie *Hairspray*, Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan's book follows the adventures of the overweight, always-optimistic Tracy Turnblad in early-1960s Baltimore. More than anything, she wants to be one of the regular teen dancers on a local *American Bandstand*-type show, and maybe get to dance with dreamboat Link Larkin. But her innocent quest leads her into

scary places before all is bright sunshine, and even racial harmony, by the final curtain.

Dancing, of course, is a big part of the proceedings, and the touring ensemble puts across choreographer Jerry Mitchell's happy steps with astonishing energy. This is especially true of Austin Miller, who, as Link, looks to be possessed by the muse Terpsichore whenever the music starts.

For the score, songwriters Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman created infectiously joyous songs rooted in various pop sounds of the '60s, but that possess full-throttle theatricality and even dollops of heart beneath the pastiche.

The set for this tour looks a bit flimsy, but this is one show that doesn't need to lean on scenic devices to provide the wow factor. *Hairspray* is a feel-good musical that even makes you feel good about the way you feel good. ▼

Hairspray will run at the Golden Gate Theatre through July 3. Tickets are \$39-\$81. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.

Rita Moreno takes on a diva

In Berkeley Rep's 'Master Class,' she plays Maria Callas

by Richard Dodds

Rita Moreno didn't get around to reading *Master Class* until two weeks before rehearsals began for the Berkeley Rep production. "I almost wet my knickers when I saw how much dialogue there was," she said. "It wasn't laziness. I just had so many other things going on."

At age 72, and despite a move to the quiet of the Berkeley hills six years ago, Moreno still enjoys loading up her plate with work. It is that busy schedule that has kept her from appearing at Berkeley Rep up 'til now, despite her commitment to do a show shortly after she and her retired-doctor husband arrived in the area.

Durrenmatt's *The Visit* and Chekhov's *The Seagull* were ideas that came and went before the right time meshed with the right property. In *Master Class*, Moreno plays an imperious Maria Callas working with voice students at Juilliard while her mind drifts into reveries about romantic and professional crises.

"There are traps in this role," Moreno said during a break in rehearsals. "Yes, it's a diva, but if you just come out there and do a lot of what I call voice acting, being very haughty and that kind of stuff, there is so much that you'll miss."

It's not the first time Moreno has faced the challenges of a diva role. "I played Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard* in London, and that's another trappy role. You can come out doing Carol Burnett with a curtain rod on her shoulders. I remember being very concerned that I was going to be asked to be that big and broad from the very beginning, and if you are, where do you go from there?"

Terrence McNally based his Callas play on an actual series of master classes she gave at Juilliard in the early 1970s, after she had been fired from La Scala and dumped by Aristotle Onassis. "She's a heartbreaking woman," Moreno said. "She was also not the nicest woman in the world. That's what's so fun and challenging. You have to find her humanity, which is what keeps you out of the diva trap."

Did Moreno herself ever go through a diva phase? "Oh, God, no," she said. "That is so unlike me. Even when I was being young and stupid, I was always a generous person. I hope that doesn't sound like boasting, because it's a nice trait to have."

Still, Moreno said, she can recognize pieces of herself in Callas. "The difference is that I don't give in to her impulses. Sometimes you do want to say, 'Move over, world. Here's Rita Moreno.' But I control that. I'm a mature person. I don't think Maria ever really matured."

Although Moreno has never seen a live production of *Master Class*, she did watch part of a tape of the original Broadway production that starred Zoe Caldwell. Even from that limited exposure, she is convinced that director Moises Kaufman (*The Laramie Project*) is putting his own stamp on it. "You are going to be staggered," she said. "You will be absolutely stunned. I know what I'm talking about."



Moreno plays an imperious Callas working with Juilliard voice students.

Right now, Moreno is absolutely exhausted. "I don't remember being this tired in years. I get home, and I stare into space."

Then I have a big glass of chardonnay and turn on CNN. That's my salvation. I'm exhausted, but at the same time I'm so wired."

Of course, there are rewards, and Moreno was feeling them particularly on this day.

"When you have days like this, when Moises is so inspired, and you're

getting what he is saying and able to act out what he's describing, and he's pleased about it, and everyone's laughing or everyone's moved, what could be bad? I'm very fortunate to get paid for what I love to do. But let's make it very clear, this is a nonprofit theater. We aren't getting paid a whole bunch."

Moreno previously played the diva in another Terrence McNally play, *The Ritz*. She won a Tony Award for Googie Gomez, the malaproping cabaret star to the boys in the baths. "I have to tell you," she said, "that there are certain lines in *The Ritz* that make me cringe, because they mean something so different now."

Not many people know it, Moreno said, but McNally wrote the character after seeing her at a party doing a comic take on a clueless performer with a thick ac-

cent. "Googie is Maria Callas taken to a ridiculous degree," Moreno said. "That's what makes her so delicious."

For tickets or info for *Master Class*, call (510) 647-2949 or go to berkeleyrep.org.

Mask media

In *Second Skin*, Joan Schirle is a woman of many faces but never her own. Schirle wears a different mask for each of the 15 characters she plays, creating characterizations through voice and body language. The male, female, young and old characters all share a relationship with a young woman who believes she possesses the soul of Marilyn Monroe.

A search for earlier newspaper mentions of the show came up with this description by a newspaper in Victoria, BC: "A huge cotton skirt trailing behind Schirle seems unwieldy at first, but it quickly becomes one of the most intriguing props in the play. Twisted and manipulated it is by turns a tail, an umbilical cord, a penis, and an evening gown."

Schirle has pretty much toured with world with *Second Skin*, including a 2001 stop at the Yerba Buena Center. She's returning to San Francisco for performances at the Brava Theatre Center on May 14 & 15. For more information, call 647-2822 or go to brava.org.

Tony rewards

Taking a cue from the various

Oscar benefits, the New Conservatory Theatre Center is turning to the Tonys for a black-tie-optional fundraising event.

Ticket to the Tonys takes place on June 6, in and about the lobby, with large-screen TVs in two of NCTC's theaters. Playwright Terrence McNally, noted above for his plays *Master Class* and *The Ritz*, will play host, and is promised to

provide commentary during commercials.

There are various levels of tickets, from \$50 up, with a silent auction, food from local restaurants, and other treats available. Call Barbara Cohn at 861-4914. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Michael Myhand (Mr. Triple R Leather 2003), left, passed the sash to Rocky Paul, who won the Mr. Triple R Leather 2004 title last Saturday night, May 8 in Guerneville. Rocky advances to compete at the Mr. North Coast Leather contest later this year.

Russian River capers

by Mister Marcus

The race for Mr. North Coast Leather 2004 up at the Russian River got underway last Saturday night, May 8, when the Russian River Resort staged their 10th annual Mr. Triple R Leather contest.

Unfortunately, there was only one contestant — but he managed to get the required 60 percent of available points from the judges, and so Mr. Triple R Leather 2004 is "Rocky" Paul, a 37-year old resident of Guerneville. Paul does handyman work at Fife's and other resorts, and was encouraged by quite a few "movers and shakers" in that area to compete. Rocky advances to compete in the Mr. North Coast Leather competition later this year.

It was fun judging this contest with "Mama" Reinhardt and Lenny Broberg. MCs Shann Carr and Graylin Thornton had to "stretch" a whole lot for the overflowing crowd, and they had the attendees in stitches. Shann acted out her "Tales of the Turbulent

Seas" aboard gay cruise ships, with Graylin acting as her "straight" man (yeah, right!). It was a fun-filled evening, and Snatch managed to keep the crowd mesmerized with her outrageous performance not once but twice during the evening!



Leather

The new restaurant at the Triple R proved to be quite good, and the libations were flowing all weekend as everyone seemed hell-bent on having a good time. The weather was balmy, and Mr. North Coast Leather Eric Edelstein managed to raise several hundred dollars with his group in the local AIDS Walk, and another \$500 by auctioning off his own jock strap and Graylin's, which they wore during the AIDS Walk in Santa Rosa.

Boosters needed for LA&M

As many of you may be aware, the balloon payment on the building that houses the Leather Archives & Museum in Chicago is due in August so an all-out push is being made to raise the needed funds. Joe Gallagher will be making a speech regarding this obliga-

tion and donations will be solicited either at the Pecs & Personality segment of IML or at the contest itself. 150 volunteers are needed to collect money and/or credit card charges from the audience. If you feel like you want to help out, email to gallagher@leatherpge.com and you will be contacted as to when this solicitation will take place.

Leather, Levi Weekend

Locally, the popular Leather/Levi Weekend is looming, and reservations are being taken now. The fees are \$149 for only 90 first-timers. Early registration closes on May 21st, for \$175. Thereafter it's \$225 until July 15, and \$250 till August 5. Do it today!

Kings go forth

All across the land, in Canada and in Europe, IML contenders are being lauded in good luck and farewell send-off parties, with hopes that their "favorite sons" will do well at IML in just 17 days. Thousands will make the trek to Chicago for the world's biggest leather competition. Rooms at the host Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel are going fast, but there are still

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, May 14

Leather Night at Renegades in San Jose and a sendoff party for Mr. Santa Clara Leather Kohl from 2100 to closing.

Saturday, May 15

Meet and Greet the men of the 2005 Bare Chest Calendar at the Eagle Tavern this afternoon from 1500 to 1800. Get a close-up of the 2005 icons.

Frank Vasconcellos steps aside as Mr. Edge Leather 2003 tonight as Mr. Edge Leather 2004 will be chosen at the contest from 2000 to 2400. TJ Istvan will MC as ONLY he can, beer/soda bust, raffles, auction. To benefit PRC.

Mr. Alameda Bear 2004 will be chosen at Club Rumor in Hayward by the ACLC with a \$7 beer/soda bust, food, entertainment, boxer shorts party, auction and raffles.

Wednesday, May 19

Friday, May 21: Exiles of SF present "Breaking Ego! Secrets of Interrogations and Psychological Mind Games" by "Celeste". Doors open 1930; program 2000-2200. \$3 members; \$6 guests. Women's Building.

Underwear Buddies flaunt their frillies tonight at 933 Harrison. Mandatory clothes check; no shorts, no pants. Call 777-HEAD.

Saturday, May 22

Celebration of the life of Alan Selby in the Eagle Patio at 1400 with speakers from everywhere. No details at my deadline.

Sunday, May 23

Good luck and send-off party for Mr. SF Leather Julian Marshburn at Daddy's today from 1600 to 2000. Beer/soda bust, entertainment, drawings, raffles, hoopla and more. Be there!

Wednesday, May 26

Leather Buddies cavort in black skins at 933 Harrison tonight. Doors open 2000 to 2300. For info: 777-HEAD.

Weekend, May 27-31

The world's biggest leather competition, it's IML 2004 in Chicago. Rooms still available at Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel. For complete info, surf www.IML.com.

PORN

Join the jack-off

by John F. Karr

If you've been wanting to lay hands on each glorious naked inch of Michael Brandon, you'll want to attend the upcoming *Masturbate-a-thon*. From 8 to 10 p.m. this Saturday, May 15, Michael will be among the special guests welcoming men to the annual benefit for The Center for Sex and Culture, run by Drs. Carol Queen and Robert Lawrence. It's just like a walk-a-thon. You can get sponsors to pledge funds for each minute, or hour, you wank. Or you might want to just simply be there among the wankers. They'll be of all sexes, although there are segregated playspaces. SF Jacks will be hosting the Men's Room, where I promise not to monopolize Michael. For more info, check out www.masturbate-a-thon.com. Cum for a cause!

Bedtime for boners

My enthusiasm for last week's pair of Studio 2000 movies starring Matt van Dorn wasn't sustained by the third feature he's in. Yes, the company's mandate is strictly play-it-safe vanilla. But *Bedtime Stories III* reveals a general paisey that lurks within.

It's true that the individual elements that make up *Bedtime Stories III* are promising. Foremost is the unaggrandized appeal of Studio 2000's young men. They're neither overbuilt, overhyped, nor have overhyped sex.

Meaty Ace Hanson is mesomorph heaven, his still-natural physique not hardened into a body-builder's armored shell. And he's so cute, a perfect ringer for Superman, down to the cleft in his chin and patent-leather black hair. Usually a bottom, he throws a sturdy fuck here while talking dirty, getting himself so excited he squirts but good. Danny Vox can't possibly be the basketball team's coach: he's the same age as the team's star he's giving a cliché massage to! But nicely furred Vox is a Stud of Tomorrow, and you've got to groove on the hard-on thumping under the player's towel. And who could complain about Joe Foster's taut dick banging around as he bobbles in a Reverse Cowboy atop the long, long pole of creamy-skinned, solidly built Tony Mecelli?

Well, I could. These are all nice guys. Star names. But there's hardly a shred of chemistry among



Solidly built Tony Mecelli, left, with meaty Ace Hanson at *Bedtime*.

them. Why are they coming off so blandly? Why is what promisingly starts as good-natured sex running to routine? Ultimately, there's

no escaping the feeling that these unrelated vignettes were originally filmed for other movies, but didn't make the cut. Because of the number of times hotel busboy Ace Hanson repeats, "How do you like this room service?"

which a smart editor would have allowed only once. Because each scene is 20 minutes no matter how good, or indifferent, the sex is. Because of the soundtrack's lounge music, which pays no attention to rising action or climax, and just pablums along until it's time to fade out. Because of the scene within a scene within a scene that's a typical example of porn-makers being conceptual — meaning it's an absolutely confusing wrap-up for Joe and Tony's coupling. But here's the real tip-off: the box-cover photos pair performers who didn't have sex together. Were they the only ones who could be mustered for photo call when someone decided to package these scenes?

Swing set

Matt van Dorn's scene with feisty redhead Kurt Summers comes off the best. The segment is called, "It's a Kid Thing." But neither the cocking on Summers' sleek rammer nor the cock it chokes are a kid thing. At Studio 2000, this sorta jewelry is rarely seen, major kink. It got both myself and stringbean Mr. van Dorn roiled up. Matt goes to town on Kurt's tasty meat, gazing upward at Kurt with angelic eyes as he swings on his pink and shining tip. The guys enjoy each other's bodies a bit more than the previous performers, before sliding into a slow 69. Like most uncut cocks when the skin's pulled back, Matt's knob has that bright sheen. But Kurt's stealing the scene. His intensely sexy focus, his thick cock, his slow tongue on Matt's balls and asshole as his hand caresses and coaxes Matt's cock. Kurt's probing fingers have Matt wiggling his ass around eagerly before the full length of his cock slides in deftly. When Matt settles his teeny buns down on it in a squat, it's entirely engulfed. This Reverse Cowboy provides really rousing exposure of the action, before Kurt's cock is buried to the hilt for the last time as Matt spurts a hard-driven load. studio2000video.com; (800) 435-2445 ▼



Karnal Knowledge

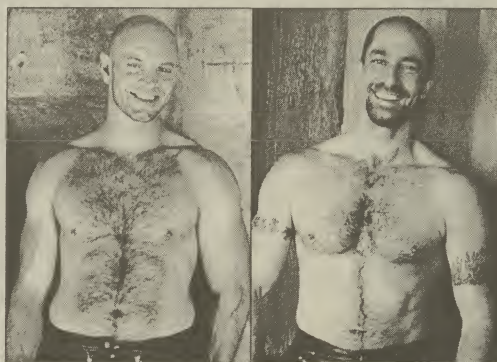
Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

some available if you act fast.

The send-off party for Mr. San Francisco Leather, Julian Marshburn, will take place on Sunday, May 23, from 1600 to 2000 at Daddy's Bar, with lots of surprises, a beer/soda bust, and entertainment. Be there and support our contestant.

The SF Bay Area will also be sending Darryl Janssen (Mr. Hayes Valley Leather), Dan Hogue (Mr. Central Valley Leather-Fresno), Eric Edelstein (Mr. North Coast Leather-Russian River), Kohl (Mr. Santa Clara Co. Leather) and Joel Kislingbury (Mr. Alameda County Leather). It will be a hot time in Chicago! ▼



Tim Fristoe, 2005 SoMa Bare Chest Calendar Cover Man, left, and David Haase, the calendar's Back Cover Man, will be at the "Bare Chest Calendar Meet & Greet" at the Eagle Tavern along with the 10 other winners on Saturday, May 15, at 1500 hrs.

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photo (c) David Morgan

London swings?

by Robert Julian

Shameless by Paul Burston;
Warner Books, \$14

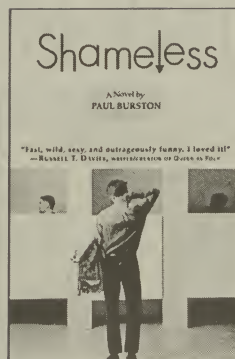
Those silly gay people. In *Shameless*, Paul Burston's debut novel, they have sex, do lots of drugs, hang out in bars, and go to the gym. And through it all, they dish the dirt on themselves and others. Their weekend partying usually ends in unconsciousness, due to overindulgence in drugs and/or alcohol, and the main coping technique of this 30-

ish London party crowd is denial.

Martin's younger boyfriend, Christopher, dumps him for a hot young stud, John, a flight attendant, takes up with Fernando, a drug-dealing party boy. And Caroline, the requisite fag hag of the story, loses her boyfriend when she accuses him of being gay. As their lives unravel, the protagonists of *Shameless* find themselves increasingly drawn to outrageous behavior. Author Paul Burston maintains a frantic pace for this comedy of contemporary gay life, placing the emphasis on bitchy repartee and outré situations. But

all the bonhomie in the world can't make up for the fundamentally shallow content of Burston's narrative.

The behavior described in *Shameless* is neither new nor original. This lifestyle has existed in urban gay capitals all over the world for at least 30 years. If you are a closeted young gay boy in rural England or the Midwestern US, Burston's characters may seem daring and adventurous—but only if you can look beyond their self-destructiveness. And if you are, or have been, actively engaged in this sort of life, any flick-



er of self-recognition should be more disturbing than amusing.

Burton is not a terrible writer, but he isn't a great one, either. *Shameless* doesn't have a conclusion or a particularly strong story line; it's a series of mildly amusing events that ultimately wind down and stop, rather abruptly. Along the way, one gay character excoriates his "vile opera queen" roommate for moving to San Francisco. "San Francisco? Some queens have no imagination. Someone should have told her it's not the '70s anymore and San Fran is nothing like *Tales of the City*. More like *Tales from the Crypt*."

Oh, let's not go there. ▼

Aaron Krach

◀ Arts cover

I wanted Adam to have a good time even though shit is going down. Bad stuff is happening all around him, but he's able to pull through by depending on himself and his friends. He gets to graduate and be embarrassed in front of his mom. His friends have science fairs to go to and jobs afterschool. It's very ordinary, I suppose, except that life if lived fully is extraordinary. I wanted Adam to live fully, and here that means taking a big risk in talking to Jeff, the older cop he befriends.

Did your Angeleno roots inform *Half-Life*?

I have always loved LA. I know people hate it and think it's creepy/weird, but I think it's insane, boring, crazy and wonderful. I'm so glad that my parents moved there when I was three months old. If I'd grown up in Michigan, *Half-Life* would have totally sucked. Dude.

But seriously, I grew up in Al-

hambra, California, a city stuck between sorta cool Pasadena and not-so-cool East LA. My formative years were all there, and I'm grateful for that. Hell, it could have been infinitely worse. But I never wanted to write a memoir. I wanted to write about a story much more exciting than my own. I turned Alhambra into Angelito so I could make the book's setting my ideal part of LA.

I love LA because of beautiful banality. Hollywood might be there churning out dreams, but all the people who make the movies are supremely ordinary. The weather is ridiculously perfect, yet smog alerts are a regular part of life. Let's not even talk about earthquakes. I remember sitting in my high school classroom months after the huge Northridge earthquake, an aftershock would rumble through and nobody would move. We'd just sit, wait and see if it was the big one. It wasn't, so we'd go right on with whatever we're doing. That is a wild and yet genius amount of anxiety control.

Lastly, LA is sexy. It's those very long freeways, magical mystery



Krach loves 'beautiful banality.'

tours for everyone who dares to drive their car up the on-ramp. Get on-board and you never know who or what you're going to see in the car next to you. It really is like the "the future" in a Sci-Fi movie, where everyone is in their individual bubble, zooming past each other. Yet cool connections happen. There is so much flirtation going on between drivers, I'm shocked there aren't more car accidents. I don't know of anyone who's ever picked someone up while driving, but hell if I didn't try.

You bring sense-rich writing to the sex you describe. How do you keep the world of sensation so rich in the book?

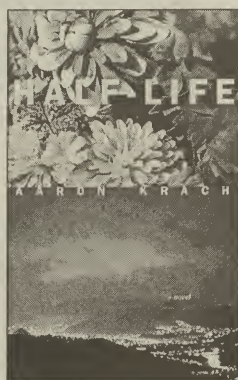
For me, the senses are all we have. Cut away all the bullshit, and we're left with stuff we can see, hear, read, taste and touch. That's it. Especially when it comes down to sex, that's all there is: two people, preferably naked, using their senses. Frankly, I love sex, and think people who don't are plagued by some kind

of insecurity that has marred them from experiencing it fully. Homophobia and sexphobia have to be caused by terrible inexperience. If John Ashcroft and his sex-policing cronies got laid once in a while, how could they ever be so against (and obsessed with) everyone else's sex?

The authenticity of the intergenerational relationship between the 38-year-old cop and the 18-year-old high school senior is really moving and hot!

I tried to keep it real. For me, it was about keeping it authentic, the feelings and situations. Putting myself into the character helped make sure the emotions were real as well as the actions. I asked myself: What would I touch first if a hunky policeman ended up in the backyard with me? Where would I kiss him first? And how?

I think it came out okay because I truly believe in the power of connections. Some people connect for a moment, a weekend or their whole lives, and when they do: the sex is hot, hot, hot. I like intergenerational relationships, as much as I like guys hooking up who look like narcissistic twins:



same age, same muscles, same tank-tops, even. Whatever floats your boat, because making a truly life-changing connection doesn't happen every day. You have to be open to it, and you have to grab it when it does. ▼

Aaron Krach will read on June 5, 5 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore, SF.

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Out There

◀ page 26

and we don't mean of the 'strap variety. Trannyshack impresario Heklina, that Jackie Gleason of the seriously tough tranny set, will host the **San Francisco Bicycle Coalition's** festive *Bike to Work Night*, a joint fundraiser for the SFBC & the **San Francisco Late Night Coalition**, on Thurs., May 20, 8 p.m. at the DNA Lounge, 11th St. (\$10). Bands include **Giant Value**, **Rouge Wave** and the **Marginal Prophets**.

We had the pleasure of cheering on **Critical Mass** as they peddled *en masse* by our streetside flat last month. Rudely, a bloke on his motorcycle barreled through the bike mob, earning cyclists' jeers. We agreed, but append our own anthem, "Bikes off the sidewalks!" That's because we count ourselves proud members of **Pedestrian Nation**. ▼



Heklina joins forces with the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition.

Funny Girlz

◀ page 36

three other facilitators, Williams presents humor-related workshops and seminars for corporations, colleges, federal agencies, state departments of health, social service, and nonprofit organizations. Film and television audiences have seen Williams featured in the films *Laughing Matters* and *We're Funny That Way*, which is regularly shown on HBO.

She is happy to be back in the Bay Area to do her first *Funny*

Girlz show. To ensure that she reaches an ethnically diverse audience, she also secured an Oakland gig the night before.

With its multicultural lineup of black, white, Jewish, Ethiopian and Cuban comics, *Funny Girlz* should provide just the kind of diversity that Williams is looking for. Did you hear that, HRC? ▼

Funny Girlz, Sat., May 15, 8 p.m. at Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave., SF. Tickets (\$20-\$25), call (415) 392-4400. Info: koshercomedy.com

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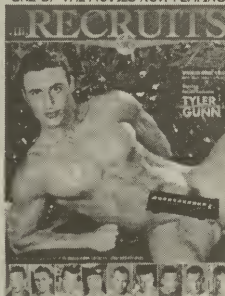
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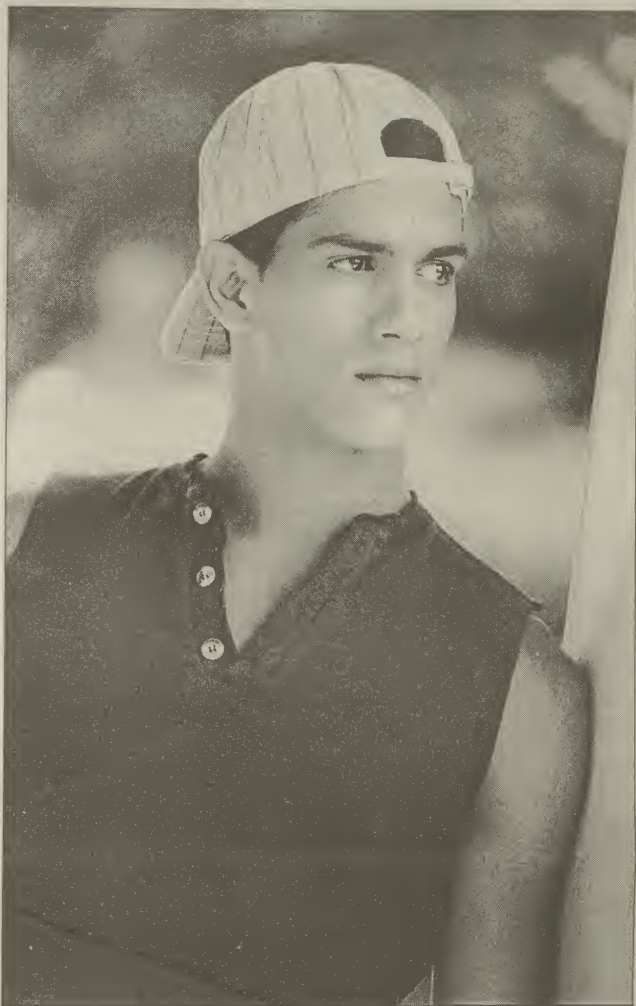
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PARTING GLANCES

Blond Adonis End Up Apr 24 wall riveting man at wall. Med hair, red sleeveless shirt. Joined friends, dance-floor Me: shoulder dark hair, orange sleeveless. Uncharacteristically became shy, yet smitten. Lets meet. Call for details. Eyes met! ☎ 71192

Bar on Castro Wed. 4/28 10PM You: Asian with friends wearing white blue t-shirt. Me: GWM at bar wearing blue shorts. Did you drive by after and yell good night? You're so cute! ☎ 71100

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Artist Musician Bisexual looking for partner in criminal, I enjoy reading, yoga, playing guitar and brainstorming ideas. What about you? ☎ 71182

FF In The Afternoon Mature, muscular man would like to date a buddy for some regular afternoon or evening mutual butt play, weekends too. ☎ 71186

Muscular GWM Seeks Smooth Asian I'm a good guy who's cultured, honest, clean, HIV-. Seeking a muscled Asian to date on a regular basis. I'm also passionate and love great sex. Let's meet. ☎ 71187

Redhead Santa Rosa native. 43, 5'10", 180#. Enjoys drumming, tennis & talk radio. Seeks female. ☎ 71193

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Effeminate Men

LM, 49, 6', 165lbs, moderately hairy. I'm looking for younger effeminate men to give me slow, sensual oral pleasure all over. No pain or S & M. ☎ 71199

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Hello, my name is Joseph, 5'7", 170 lbs., brn hair, blue eyes. Live alone, single...want to be totally naked for the right gay Daddie. ☎ 71106

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5'9", 180, thinning hair, moustache. Seeking mature, masculine, submissive oral expert to relieve me late weekday afternoons or late week-nights, downtown Oakland. Either clean shaven or moustache only. ☎ 71107

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GWM, 50, 5'10", 170 Shv head, work in SF, weekend in wine country. Lkg for someone to enjoy pleasures of both places. D/D free. ☎ 71108

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Cocksucker Needs Training

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OTHER

Musical Genius Looking For counterpart. You must be sober cuz I am! I am 32 and in good shape. I like Yoga and writing as well. ☎ 71165

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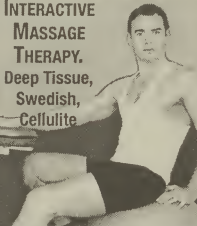
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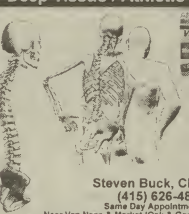
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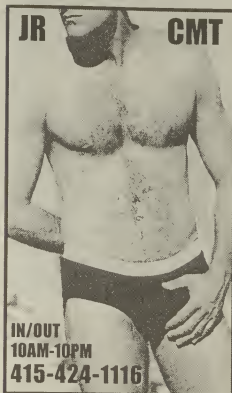
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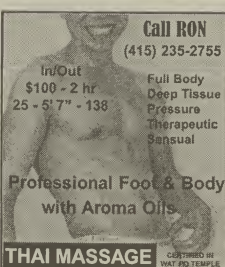
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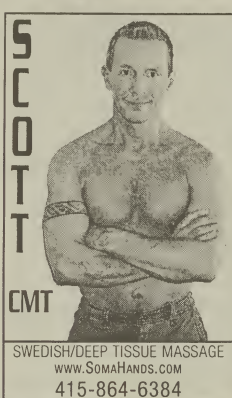
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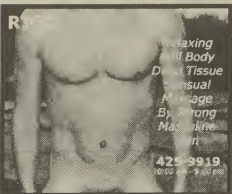


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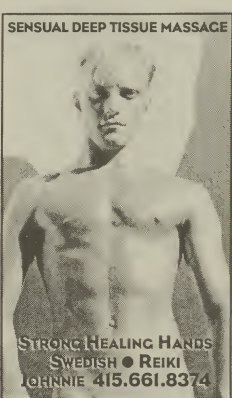
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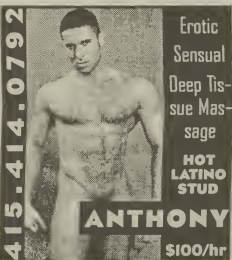
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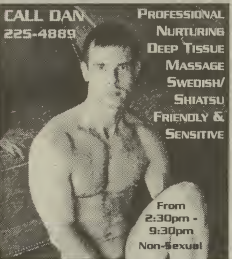
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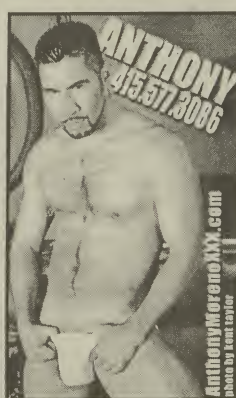
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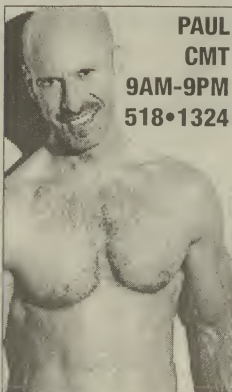
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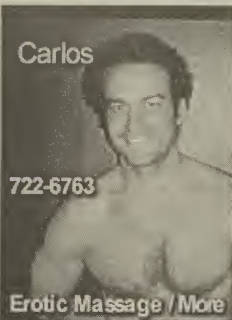
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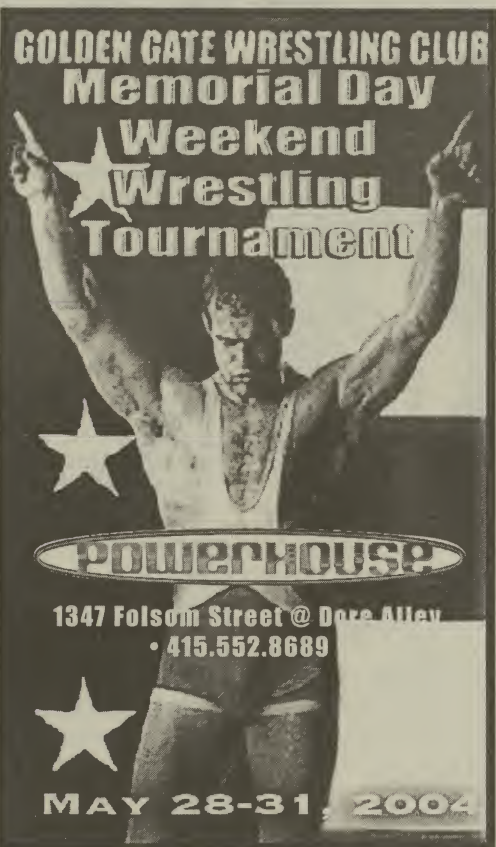


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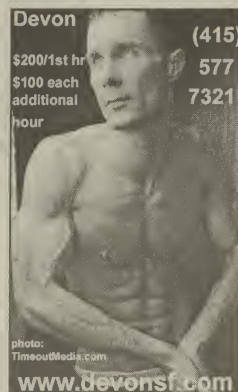
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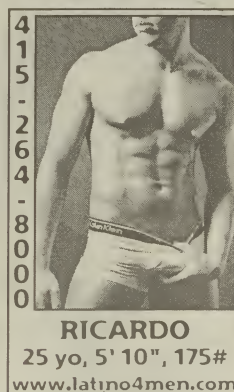
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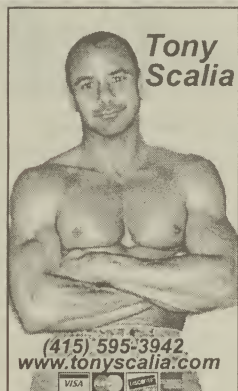
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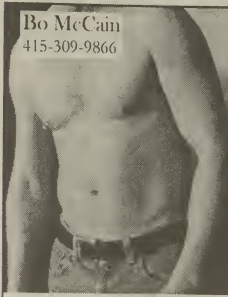
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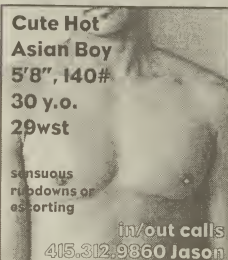
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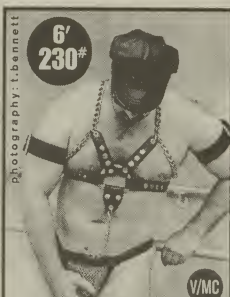
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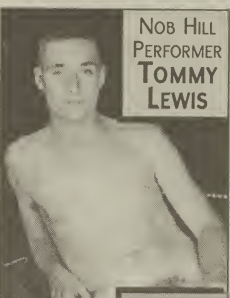
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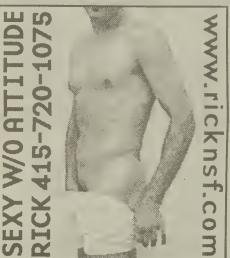
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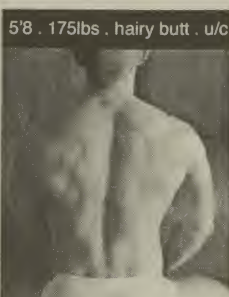
HOT BLONDE
6ft. 175 muscular, top to bottom
smooth, 8 1/2 Tan out only 341-4625

8 1/2 UNCUT
European. Worked out body
Downtown 28, Marco 346-8439

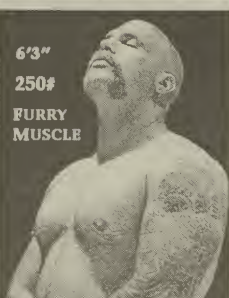
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I'm back from 3 months in London!
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Hung 9.5x7, top, cut. 38 yrs old

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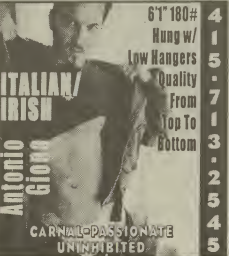
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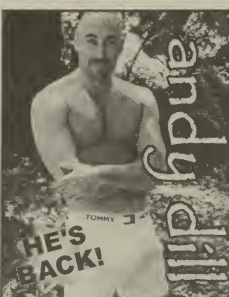
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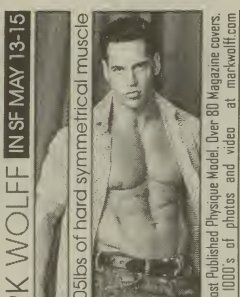
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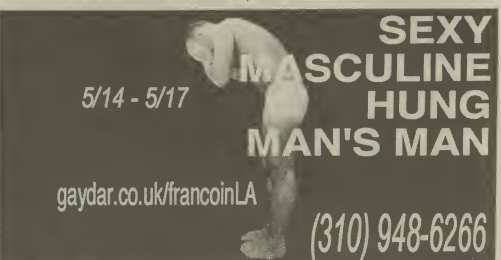
SEXY VERSATILE GUY
Friendly Latino, smooth body, tan,
slim, cleancut, gym toned, 26yo,
5'7", 130#, 7X6 Erik 235-6090



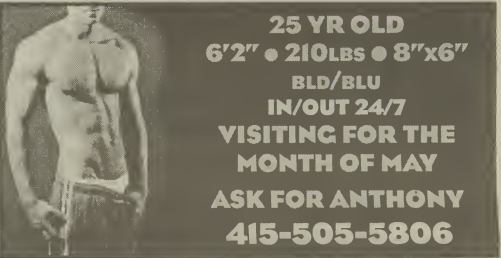
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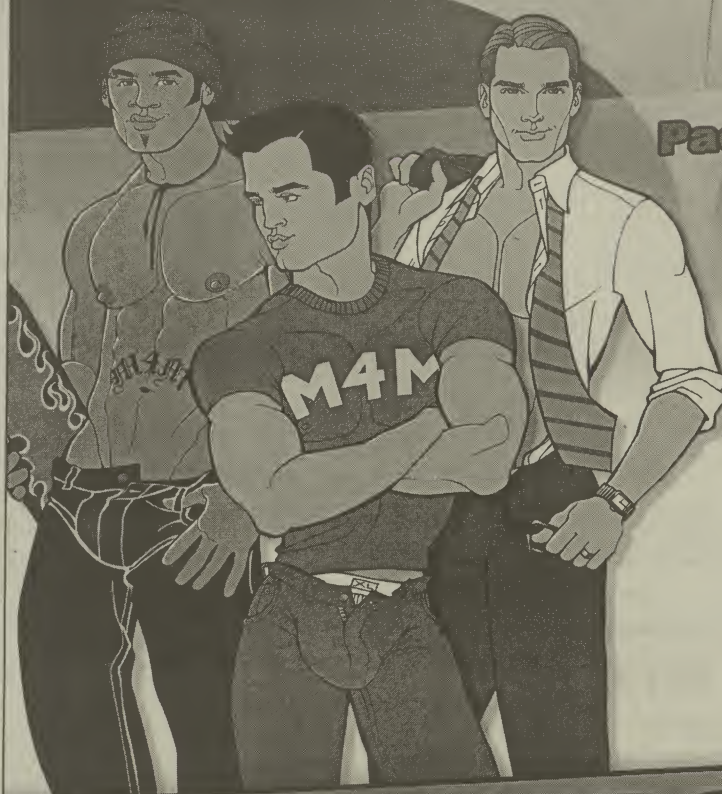
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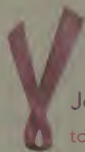
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Mark Del Monte
Community Worker



Join me on Tuesday, May 18th for HIV Vaccine Awareness Day. Wear your red AIDS ribbon upside down to form a "V" — as a sign you share my vision for an HIV preventive vaccine. Showing your support for HIV vaccine research shows you appreciate all the people working to make progress to stop this killer, HIV.

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